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VICE-CHANCELLORS SPEAK OUT

New move to police Internet

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

THE FIRST government-inspired attempt to police the Internet by tackling the growing amount of defamatory material and breaches of copyright could soon be set up.

Barbara Roche, the minister for industry, is looking at establishing an independent panel to investigate complaints as part of a review on regulating the Internet due to be published later this year.

The proposal could meet opposition from both civil liberties laws and those for whom the In-



ternet represents the last bastion of individual freedom. Malcolm Hutter, spokesman for the Campaign Against Censorship

of the Internet in Britain, said: "It [the complaints panel] is clearly aimed at being a board which can dictate what is acceptable and not acceptable... which is highly damaging. Any such panel is likely to be much stricter than the law of the land."

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) says it is responding to the concerns of British Internet service providers (ISPs) who are fearful of being dragged into libel actions over contentious material published on their sites.

The new body would handle complaints about material pub-

lished in talk groups as well as web-sites but would have no remit for dealing with service providers outside the UK.

The complaints panel, which would only examine civil disputes, could be an extension to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) which investigates child pornography. The IWF is funded by the Internet industry, supported by the Government and advised by police. Complaints to its hotline have resulted in 2,000 items being removed from UK sites in a year.

A DTI spokeswoman said last night: "It is envisaged that the consultation [with the In-

ternet industry and users] will result in the extension of the IWF's current remit to include matters such as defamation and copyright infringement."

Because service providers currently have no official guidance on civil disputes they are increasingly choosing to remove contentious sites rather than risk being sued for libel.

Their actions have prompted fears that arbitrary censorship will suppress information published in the public interest.

Lord Avebury, the human rights campaigner, said: "There's a great deal of censorship going on by the service

providers, not because they wish to, but because of the uncertainties in the law. They have not got the time to look at allegations and are taking the easy way out and just censoring it."

He said that customers who lost their sites would be able to bring actions against the service providers for breach of freedom of expression under the European Convention on Human Rights, which is being incorporated into British law.

Demon, one of Britain's largest ISPs, recently decided to remove a web-site which contained allegations about a religious group, after com-

plaints that some of the material was libellous.

The site contained information about the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order, which has provided guidance to the Department for Education on religious teaching in schools.

The Internet Service Providers Association, which represents more than 50 British ISPs, said last night that it expected that the complaints body would be funded privately but run by people independent of the industry.

David Kennedy, chief executive, said: "People who thought there was some defam-

atory material would report to this third party which would make a judgement... and they could advise the ISPs to act." He said that if ISPs refused to accept the advice to remove a site there would be a "strong argument" that they were then jointly liable for publication.

Service providers have become increasingly concerned following a landmark judgement in Germany last month. The former head of the German subsidiary of CompuServe received a suspended prison sentence after child, animal and violent pornography was found on sites provided by his company.

Bombers strike on eve of poll

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
and COLIN BROWN

THE PEOPLE of Northern Ireland have been urged to show their defiance of the terrorists who planted a car bomb in Armagh by voting in even greater numbers in today's elections for the first directly elected Ulster Assembly for a generation.

The republican bomb on the eve of the poll was a reminder of the continuing threat to the peace process from fringe elements. A 15-year-old youth was injured when a large device exploded beside a security base in south Armagh.

The bomb went off in a vehicle parked in a hotel car park next to a joint RUC-Army security base in the largely Catholic border village of Newtownhamilton. The area was being cleared following telephone warnings when the device exploded.

Teachers in a nearby primary school said children had been upset and frightened by the explosion, which caused widespread damage through the central square of the village.

Responsibility for the attack was claimed by the Irish National Liberation Army, a small breakaway republican group that is opposed to the peace process and continues to resort to violence in an effort to derail it. The INLA is one of three minor republican groups that have not declared ceasefires. There have been recent reports that the three had begun to co-operate and were pooling resources.

The attack represents the first major bombing for some time. The security forces had warned that more violence was on the way from republican renegades, but apart from yes-

terday's attack, recent weeks have been peaceful.

The attack was widely condemned as the work of unrepresentative elements, although the Rev Ian Paisley claimed it must have been "sanctioned by the Provos but subcontracted to the INLA". Sinn Féin said: "This action is clearly intended to undermine the current opportunity for peace. It must not be allowed to do so."

The SDLP said it was "a cynically timed attack clearly targeting the democratic process and aimed at destroying the peace which we have all worked so hard to achieve."

The call to defy the bombers was reinforced by Andrew MacKay, the Tory spokesman on Northern Ireland. He said: "On the eve of the Assembly elections, my message to the people of Northern Ireland is clear - they must turn out in huge numbers and vote for the Assembly... defying the bombers and the terrorists."

The Independent learnt that the Tories have submitted an amendment to Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, for the Government's Bill to allow the release of prisoners. The amendment would harden the Bill by strengthening a requirement for the Secretary of State to "take into account" terrorist activity before releasing prisoners.

The keenest interest in the poll, which starts at 7am, will centre on the battle within Unionism, with David Trimble's Ulster Unionists seeking a clear majority over their rivals, who will be led in the assembly by Mr Paisley. On the national side the contest will, as ever, centre on the SDLP and Sinn Féin. About 300 candidates are contesting the 106 seats.



Police officers checking an abandoned car after yesterday's bomb attack in Newtownhamilton

Alan Lewis

Rusedski out - and it's over with his coach

BY JOHN ROBERTS
Tennis Correspondent

GREG RUSEDSKI, Britain's No 1 tennis player and the man thought by many to have a real chance of being the nation's first Wimbledon champion since 1936, pulled out of this year's championships with an ankle injury yesterday and was then told by his coach, Tony Pickard, that their nine-month association was finished.

Pickard, who previously guided Stefan Edberg to two Wimbledon triumphs, said his move followed differences with Rusedski over his treatment for a partially torn left ankle ligament sustained two weeks ago, compounded by the British No 1's decision to risk competing at Wimbledon.

Pickard said he made his decision to part company with Rusedski "when he stopped listening". He said: "I thought long and hard about it over the

last two weeks, and after he'd been to the referee I told him our relationship was over.

"We've had trust, but over the last maybe 10 or 12 days it seemed to go out of the window... he stopped listening."

Rusedski, the No 4 seed at Wimbledon, said: "I don't think that's the most supportive way to be supportive to a person. Because I get this injury, and it happens to be Wimbledon time, and I decide to give it a go, does not give a person a reason to make that choice, but I guess it shows a person's true colours."

It is the second time in less than a year that Rusedski has split from his coach. In September, just before the US Open final, he sacked Brian Teacher.

Meanwhile, Tim Henman, Britain's other seed, was far from convincing as he went into the third round, beating David Nainkin, a South African qualifier ranked No 234 in the world. Wimbledon, pages 23, 24

Calvi's body to be exhumed for new inquiry

THE BODY of Robert Calvi, the man known as God's Banker, will be exhumed in September in an attempt to establish whether he stuffed his own pockets with bricks before hanging himself beneath London's Blackfriars Bridge in 1982, or whether someone else did it for him.

The British coroner's report drawn up in that year "shows clearly that Mr Calvi hanged himself", lawyers rep-

BY ANNE HANLEY
in Rome

resenting Flavio Carboni - Mr Calvi's close confidante at the time of his death - told magistrates recently. But Mr Carboni, a Sardinian businessman with ties to the Rome underworld, was charged with organising Mr Calvi's murder, and investigators are loath to accept his version of events.

The Italian judges who or-

dered the exhumation of Mr Calvi's body have appointed pathologists to seek clues on Mr Calvi's physical state immediately prior to his death on 18 June 1982. "Official reports do not concur on whether the hanged man was conscious at the time of his death," the exhumation order said.

Mr Calvi was the chairman of Banco Ambrosiano, then Italy's largest private bank, and had arrived in London just

days before his death, after fleeing in great secrecy across Europe. The bank had crashed spectacularly with debts of over \$1.2bn, concealed in a web of fraudulent operations.

Mr Calvi moved in powerful political circles in Italy, and, thanks to his Vatican connections, above all his services for its bank, the IOR, Mr Calvi earned himself the title God's Banker. He also diverted attention from money laundering

operations for the Sicilian Mafia through front companies across Europe and Latin America.

For 15 years, the British coroner's open verdict on Mr Calvi left the mystery of his death unresolved. Then, last April, the case took a dramatic turn when Francesco Di Carlo, a Sicilian mafioso imprisoned in Britain for drug trafficking in 1987, turned state's evidence and told magistrates

that he had been asked to "punish" the banker for squandering Mafia assets. He said he was told to act quickly, before Mr Calvi could be arrested and forced to reveal details of the Mafia's financial empire.

Mr Di Carlo denied having murdered Mr Calvi, and placed the blame on a Neapolitan mobster, Vincenzo Castillo, who was murdered in Rome in a car-bomb attack six months after Mr Calvi's death.

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INSIDE
FULL CONTENTS
PAGE 2
TODAY'S TV
SECTION 2, PAGE 24

HOME NEWS

Forty police forces have been involved in investigations into allegations of abuse at care homes

PAGE 3

POLITICS

Britain may ratify the Ottawa Convention on landmines before MPs break for the summer

PAGE 8

FOREIGN NEWS

The US said laboratory tests showed traces of VX poison gas at a site where Iraq destroyed missiles

PAGE 11

BUSINESS

Pson has joined forces with three mobile phone manufacturers to challenge Microsoft

PAGE 15

SPORT

Howard Kendall is expected to be dismissed as Everton's manager after three weeks in limbo

PAGE 27



9 770951 946542

First anthrax weapon found

The twenty child abuse scandals that cast shame on Britain

BY ROGER DOBSON

MORE THAN 40 police forces have been involved in investigations into allegations of abuse at care homes.

As a second man was arrested by North Yorkshire Police, it emerged that all but five of the country's 52 police forces have had similar investigations, most of them into abuse of children in care homes. Twenty-seven of the forces have carried out major abuse inquiries, using the Home Office large crimes computer.

It is estimated that nationally more than 2,000 former residents of homes have made abuse allegations and that more than 200 homes have or are being investigated.

Yesterday, as a 44-year-old man was arrested by police investigating allegations of abuse at a children's home in Ripon, research by one force revealed the scale of what has become almost a national investigation into allegations of abuse.

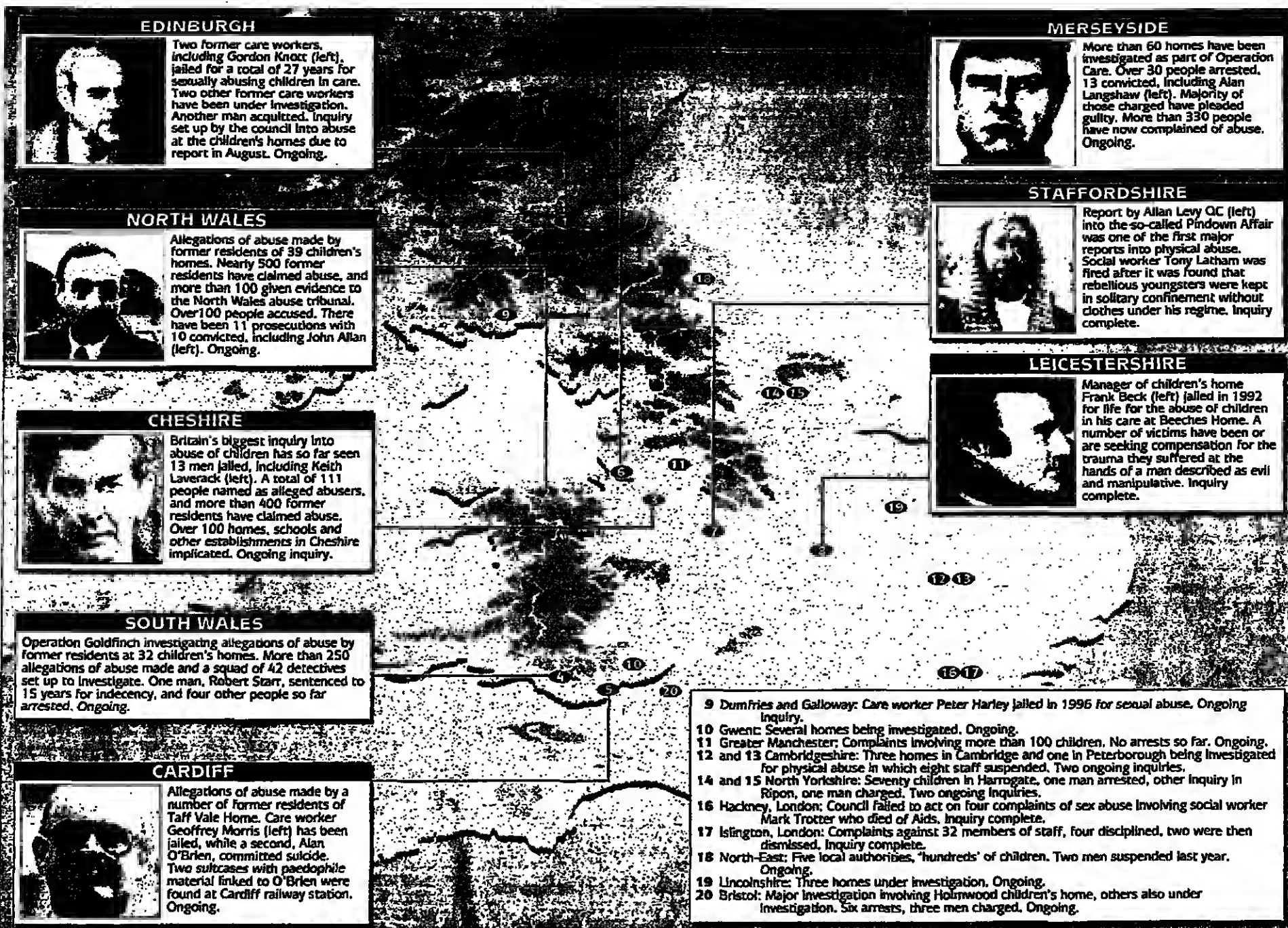
Merseyside, which has been involved in one of the longest running inquiries centred on more than 60 children's homes, asked all other forces whether or not they had been carrying out similar investigations.

"We asked them had their force been involved in any such investigation into abuse in a care setting, and 92 per cent said that they had, which works out at 47. All involve institution care of some kind and most of the inquiries will involve alleged abuse of children," said Graham Thomas, deputy head of Merseyside's Operation Care.

"We also found that 27 used HOLMES - The Home Office Large Major Enquiry System - which indicates that the inquiry was major, or that it was expected to become a major one. The number of inquiries being launched seems to be on the up and up."

Most of the investigations relate to past abuse, with some dating back to the early 1970s. Almost all involve former care workers and at least 50 have been jailed, arrested or charged over the past eight years.

The cost of the inquiries is not clear, but the North Wales abuse tribunal alone - which is due to report later this summer - is estimated to have cost more than £10m. In addition, are the criminal compensation payments made to victims as well as the result of any civil litigation against local authorities or the owners of homes.



Report outlines strategy for care

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

A MAJOR strategy to guard against "erratic" care of children by social services will be launched later this year by the Department of Health, it was announced yesterday.

The chief inspector of the Social Services Inspectorate, Sir Herbert Laming, said that, in the past, care had too often been "haphazard and inconsistent" and this must be altered.

Recent inspections of the quality of care provided by social services departments have highlighted "areas of serious concern" about services for children.

Sir Herbert's annual report into social services, published yesterday, says that a number of "worrying themes" have emerged from recent inspections of social services, including "poor practice and deficient management".

Sir Herbert said that social services departments often did not have systematic ways of dealing with problems and taking decisions. "It was often not possible to see why social services had intervened, what they hoped to achieve and how they would know whether the situation had improved or deteriorated. This is unacceptable."

"It shows that the quality of work with children and families is too often haphazard and inconsistent," concludes the report.

The report notes that demands placed on social services departments have become more complex. The strategy must therefore promote joint working, develop clear, strong management practice and aim to deliver good quality and economic services.

"This means that there needs to be good information to allow people to make more informed choices. This does not happen as often as it should," says the report.

Social Services - Facing the Future is available from the Stationery Office, price £20.

At least 400 men and some women who were allegedly abused in homes are seeking recompense for their pain and suffering. A handful of cases so far settled have resulted in payments of up to £150,000.

More than 100 claims for damages from victims of the abuse scandals in Croyd and Cheshire have been received by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Peter Bibby, consultant and author of *Organised Abuse*, said: "The damning reality is that it has taken media exposure of these large institutions not only to reveal that wide-

spread abuse is incubated inside, but also to force the hierarchies of such organisations to admit to it and to deal with the abusers they have been ignoring and sometimes hiding."

The scale of the on-going problem gives further weight to claims that the recommendations from independent inquiries over the past decade into a series of child abuse scandals have failed to be fully implemented.

Allan Levy QC, the leading child care law specialist and co-chairman of one of the first inquiries - into the Staffordshire "Pindown" physical abuse in-

quiry - spells out the problems in a new book, *Whistleblowing in the Social Services*.

"We must not ignore the fact that we already have many suggestions and recommendations from exhaustive inquiries. Why have these not been put into practice? What are the same mistakes being made, and why is a great deal of avoidable suffering and damage still occurring?"

Merseyside has been among the biggest of the ongoing inquiries. Codenamed Operation Care, more than 60 homes have been investigated over the past three years. At the last count,

more than 330 people had complained of abuse.

In North Wales, where Sir Ronald Waterhouse is writing his report after an 18-month investigation into abuse at children's homes, more than 400 former residents have claimed abuse.

That inquiry is expected to make a series of recommendations for improving child care. It is also expected to be highly critical of the regimes operated in children's homes in the Seventies and Eighties.

In Cheshire, police investigations have led to 13 men being jailed for a total of 110

years for abuse. A total of 111 people were named as alleged abusers, and more than 400 former residents have alleged that they were abused.

In South Wales, Operation Goldfinch is investigating allegations of abuse by former residents at 32 children's homes. More than 25 allegations of abuse have been made and a squad of 42 detectives was set up to investigate.

The numbers of care workers and social workers being arrested will also give ammunition to those who have campaigned for some time for the profession to have a gen-

eral council, similar to the General Medical Council, to police professionals standards.

Although abuse seem to have been almost endemic in the childcare system, there is still no real evidence of organised paedophile rings.

Although it has been found that some convicted workers had known each other, or been at the same institution for an overlapping period, care workers have tended to move jobs frequently.

In the past councils are suspected of preferring to move staff on rather than investigate and prosecute.

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Single currency debate: PM says he will stand firm after newspaper calls him 'the most dangerous man in Britain'

Attack by Sun fails to rattle Blair

TONY BLAIR yesterday told MPs he would not bow to the pressure from Rupert Murdoch's newspaper to close the option of Britain joining the single European currency.

The Prime Minister reinforced his shift towards entry with a dismissive response to yesterday's *Sun* newspaper, attacking him as the "most dangerous man in Britain".

Mr Blair shrugged off the Euro-scepticism and re-emphasised his commitment to keep open Britain's option to enter the single currency, regardless of the pressure from Mr Murdoch's media empire.

Downing Street denied it was worried about losing the support of a Murdoch newspaper and suggested it was part of a circulation war.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said: "What the newspapers do is entirely a matter for them. The national newspapers have to sell papers and take a position. One of the reasons is to get as much publicity for itself as possible. It is part of the game. I have no complaint about that."

The Prime Minister told MPs during question time that he would govern for Britain, not the readers of one newspaper. Mr Blair told the Commons: "There are two absurd policies on the euro. One is to say, as the Conservative Party do, that they are against it and will never join it, no matter what the economic circumstances are. The second is the position of the Liberal Democrats, which is to say you must join it irrespective of the economic circumstances."

"The position I believe to be sensible is to say that we will not rule out joining it in principle. We hope for it to succeed but whether we join or not depends on whether it satisfies the test of our national economic interest."

Whitehall sources dismissed the debate as part of the press obsession with itself, and ridiculed the BBC for telephoning the Chancellor's aides after midnight to ask Gordon Brown to respond on the BBC Today programme yesterday morning, an offer he declined.

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

But that does not rule out the possibility that efforts will be made to secure the *Sun*'s overall support for Labour for the next election.

Mr Blair told MPs: "The position set out by the Chancellor last October is the position, and we will not change that position. Newspapers are entitled to their view but we govern in the national interest."

It came as the Shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, underlined the Euro-scepticism of the Tory leadership under William Hague, in a speech which alarmed the pro-European MPs on his own side.

One former Tory minister said: "We have become more Euro-sceptic since Hague took over. I don't know what he thinks he's doing, but we'll look pretty foolish when it's a success."

The pro-European MPs, led by Kenneth Clarke, deny they are plotting to overthrow Mr Hague, but they fully expect a challenge if the Tories come third behind the Liberal Democrats in next year's European elections. They also believe Michael Portillo is waiting in the wings for Mr Hague to fall, but he will not strike until after the next general election.

Mr Maude's speech emphasised the differences between the two parties in highlighting the pragmatic reasons for rejecting the euro. Mr Portillo is opposed to it on principle. "EMU is not some bolt-on accessory, like a satellite dish," Mr Maude said. "Joining the single currency would mean massive and irreversible changes to the way our economy is run."

"British interest rates would have to be set to suit the economic needs of Europe as a whole rather than of Britain," he said. "Without an early and dramatic change to our economic cycle, which no one is currently predicting, that would mean interest rates that would mean interest rates that would be likely to be wrong for Britain nine times out of ten."

And EMU would mean a "degree of harmonised taxation" leading, he said, to "tax rises".



Tony Blair, with Lady Rothermere and Rupert Murdoch, at the funeral of Sir David English, former editor of the 'Daily Mail', this week

Chris Wood/Star Images

'Pure chance' that Rupert was in town

IF YOU believe the *Sun*'s new editor, it was pure coincidence that Rupert Murdoch happened to be in London this week for Sir David English's funeral when he chose to run the paper's biggest attack yet on Tony Blair's pro-Euro policies.

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

Mr Yelland maintains that it is no coincidence that his views reflect those of Mr Murdoch - after all, that's who appointed him - but that the media mogul was in America when the decision to run the attack on Blair was taken and did not see it until yesterday morning.

"I decided that we were in danger of going into the single currency without there being any serious debate on the issue and that Tony Blair's popularity and talents could mean a lot of people doing what he says."

run in a Murdoch newspaper without his approval.

However, experts on Mr Murdoch believe that the *Sun* might have a slightly different agenda from its owner.

"Murdoch at some point will wish to start earning Euros. He is desperate to get into TV in Germany and Italy so he could yet drop his opposition to the single currency," says one observer of Mr Murdoch's empire.

Yesterday, the newspaper reported that its telephone poll on the Euro had received

28,000 calls in opposition to it and just 1,370 in favour.

Mr Yelland confirmed that sales of the *Sun* yesterday held their own despite the lack of a celebrity front page, but denied playing a nationalistic card in order to boost circulation.

"We were not being overly sentimental. The easy way to get sales is to put 15 paparazzi around Prince William at Eton."

Nevertheless, in its list of 20 reasons for opposing the single currency the *Sun* claimed that losing the pound would weaken Britain's national heritage. Another reason given was the dubious assertion that Britain's gold reserves would have to be moved to Frankfurt.

The more sophisticated analysis might be that at some point Mr Murdoch, who faces opposition to his expansion plans in Europe, will want help from the British Government.

Tony Blair has already intervened on his behalf with the Italian Prime Minister, it could well be that yesterday's *Sun* was a message that if the media mogul doesn't get the help he needs, the Government can expect to pay a very heavy price.

The problem for editors of Mr Murdoch's newspapers is that if the master changes his opinions they may find themselves caught on the wrong side of the debate.

Last night, Mr Yelland was already describing his front page headline as "slightly tongue in cheek" and claiming that the story accompanying it was so generous to Mr Blair that it did not get around to attacking him until it had listed his talents.

Commons cold shoulder for flu-ridden Hague



William Hague with wife Ffion - who is at his bedside

THERE WAS not even so much as a word of condolence, nor a hint of a get-well card in the Commons yesterday. Had the Tory leader really caught a cold? Or was that his party?

William Hague became the first opposition leader for years to miss Prime Minister's Questions because he was unwell.

Mr Hague struggled through most of last week with flu, his aides said, but was forced to admit defeat on Friday and abandon celebrations of his first anniversary as leader for a sick bed.

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

man for the Tory leader said he was running a "very high temperature" and had been unable to sleep.

But some Conservatives were not impressed, though. One former minister seemed to think the leader's illness was in some way symbolic. "He's pathetic," he snorted. "It's that he's been off sick with the flu. It just shows how weak he is."

Mr Hague's spokesman did not agree, of course. "He's well on the way to recovery, but he is sensibly taking the view that it is best to rest so as to be fighting fit next week," he said.

Observers might have felt such an attitude was commendable "Nineties" and that the Conservative leader had just spotted an opportunity to show his more sensitive side.

In fact, though, he was following a long and honourable tradition of sick Tory leaders. John Major was in the dentists' chair in 1990 as speculation mounted that he would run for the Conservative leadership after the fall of Margaret Thatcher.

Mrs Thatcher herself, famous for being invincible, had to take time off for an operation on her finger during her time as Prime Minister. A problem with the tendons was making it turn

into a claw, which did not bring much sympathetic press.

Things were different in the 1950s, though. In those days Tory leaders were made of sterner stuff. When Winston Churchill had a stroke in 1953, there were fears that he might not be able to deliver his keynote speech to the party Conference, but after a quick dose of amphetamines he was raring to go. His address was a great success.

Mr Hague did not, apparently, feel that his meeting with sixth-formers in Lincoln this week merited such drastic measures. Nor, apparently, did a string of interviews set up to mark the anniversary and a

public meeting in Yorkshire. He did manage to struggle through the presentation of some Young Enterprise business awards without the use of illegal stimulants, but a major speech on civic conservatism had to be postponed until early July.

If Mr Hague has been sleepless, we can safely assume that the effect is merely a symptom of his malady. Despite the grumblings of disgruntled Conservative MPs over the last week or so, there were no obvious leadership contenders lining up to replace Mr Hague yesterday.

Standing in for his leader at question time, Peter Lilley apparently left no stone unturned

in his quest to give the Prime Minister an opening through which to attack him.

Mr Blair had added £3.5bn to Britain's welfare spending, he said, and he was "taxing people's pensions" to help make up the deficit. "We know you think your Chancellor is psychologically flawed. Are you saying he is arithmetically flawed as well?" he asked.

A lesser prime minister might have hesitated, but Mr Blair just went for a straight "no". Then he followed through with a list of Labour's achievements since the election. Mr Hague must have been very relieved.

Sketch, page 8

Jenkins 'left Billie-Jo for dead' - QC

DEPUTY headmaster Sion Jenkins denied he had failed to tend his foster daughter after finding her battered body in the family home.

Jenkins, 40, told a jury at Lewes Crown Court yesterday he did not murder 13-year-old Billie-Jo and rejected prosecution claims that he did nothing to help her, despite believing she was alive.

He told the jury of eight men and four women that his "world collapsed" when he found Billie-Jo's body on the patio of the house in Hastings, East Sussex.

Jenkins denies murdering Billie-Jo with a metal tent spike, as she painted the patio doors of the family home on February 15 last year. He was spending his third

BY MAXINE FRITH
AND PAUL EDWARDS

day in the witness box being cross-examined by Camden Pratt, QC, prosecuting, over his version of events.

The court heard how Jenkins' older natural daughters, Annie, 12, and 10-year-old Lottie, found Billie-Jo's blood-soaked body after they returned from a shopping trip with their father.

The jury heard how, on finding Billie-Jo's body, Jenkins first took Annie and Lottie from the patio into the playroom and stayed with them, rather than helping Billie-Jo.

Mr Pratt asked Jenkins three times how he had helped Billie-Jo, who had terrible head injuries.



Billie-Jo: head injuries

Jenkins said: "I went down to her and whispered to her gently and I don't know what I did next."

He said his mind was "spinning" when he found his foster daughter.

Jenkins said: "I was not sure I knew it was not an accident."

I could not accept that Billie-Jo had been murdered."

He was also questioned about his 999 call for an ambulance, when he told the operator he had not checked to see if she was breathing.

"When I found Billie, my world collapsed and I do not know if I saw breathing. I have no recollection," he said.

Jenkins was asked by Mr Pratt why he had lied in a second 999 call, saying he had put Billie-Jo in the recovery position when he had not.

He asked Jenkins again why he had not stayed with his foster daughter before emergency help arrived.

"Didn't your natural human care for another human being mean you would want to go straight back to tend an injured person?" asked Mr Pratt.

Jenkins said: "I don't know why I behaved in the manner I did. I had Billie dying on one side of the house, the children on the other crying and screaming and I was running between the two and I panicked."

Mr Pratt said: "There was no point in the recovery position because you knew Billie-Jo was dead." Jenkins replied: "That's just wrong."

After phoning for an ambulance, Jenkins shut the door on Billie-Jo's body and waited in the playroom for paramedics. The prosecution claims he murdered Billie-Jo as Annie and Lottie waited by the front door, expecting to wash his MG car.

The trial continues today.

Not even close to sailing

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Maureen O'Sullivan

THE DELICATELY beautiful, Irish-born actress Maureen O'Sullivan will be best remembered for two reasons – her performance as Jane in a string of Tarzan films opposite Johnny Weissmuller, and as the real-life mother of Mia Farrow. She memorably quipped, when told that Frank Sinatra was hoping to marry her daughter, "At his age, he should marry me!"

O'Sullivan's own career was a long and distinguished one, including performances in such major Hollywood films as *The Thin Man*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*, *Anna Karenina*, *A Day at the Races*, *The Big Clock*, and more recently *Hannah and Her Sisters*, in which she played mother to her daughter Mia.

Born in Boyle, Ireland, in 1911, O'Sullivan had had no acting training when she was noticed by the director Frank Borzage at a dinner-dance of Dublin's International Horse Show. He had the waiter send her a note: "If you are interested in being in a film, come to my office tomorrow at 11am", and subsequently he cast her as the daughter of tenor John McCormack in *Song O' My Heart* (1930), which was being partly filmed in Erin before completion in Hollywood.

Though O'Sullivan's inexperience was apparent, the film was a great success and the studio (Fox) gave the new actress a contract. Her next film was the futuristic musical, *Just Imagine* (1930), after which she was teamed with the studio's top star Will Rogers in *The Princess and the Plumber* (1930). O'Sullivan later expressed dissatisfaction with her treatment by the studio, feeling that they used her as a threat to their top female star Janet Gaynor, who was on suspension for more money and a new contract. When Gaynor settled with the studio, O'Sullivan's role became smaller and the following year her contract was terminated.

"I felt lonely, forsaken and unwanted," she said later, but in 1932 she was signed to a contract by

MGM and immediately cast as Jane in *Tarzan, The Ape Man* with the Olympic swimming champion Johnny Weissmuller as her co-star. In the Tarzan books, the heroine is Jane Porter of Baltimore, but MGM made her Jane Parker of London (O'Sullivan had been educated at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Roehampton, and her accent was totally convincing). The actress had not read any Tarzan books, and recalled that the author Edgar Rice Burroughs sent her copies of them. "He was a nice guy," she said recently, "and thought Johnny and I were the perfect Tarzan and Jane, which is lovely."

'It caused such a furore,' she recalled, 'with thousands of women objecting to my costume'

O'Sullivan, besides her attractiveness, brought a sense of humour plus an appealing blend of sophistication and innocence to the girl who teaches the jungle-bred hero how to speak, starting with "Tarzan... Jane" (not "Me Tarzan, you Jane" as commonly misquoted). The second of the series, *Tarzan and His Mate* (1934), is generally considered the best, matching the first in lyrical beauty and exciting in excitement and dramatic impetus. "Everyone cared about the Tarzan pictures," said O'Sullivan, "and we all gave of our best. They weren't quickies – it often took a year to make one."

What the critic DeWitt Bodden called the "sweet paganism" of the first two films is missing from the later ones, partly because of pressures from moralist groups who

objected to the scanty costumes, and in particular a sequence in *Tarzan and His Mate* (later cut), in which Tarzan tugs on Jane's garment as they dive into the water and when she surfaces part of her breast is exposed. "It started such a furore," recalled O'Sullivan, "with thousands of women objecting to my costume."

In subsequent films Jane's costume was more substantial while Tarzan's loin-cloth was lengthened. *Tarzan Escapes* was started in 1934, but was over two years in the making, mainly because its first cut was too frightening and violent (including a vampire bat sequence). One of the directors brought in to reshoot the material was John Farrow, who fell in love with O'Sullivan. The couple had to wait for two years for a papal dispensation because of a previous divorce of Farrow's, but their subsequent marriage lasted 27 years (until the director's death in 1963) despite his heavy drinking and infidelities. The couple had seven children – three sons and four daughters, the eldest girl Maria growing up to become the actress Mia Farrow. Between the Tarzan films, MGM cast O'Sullivan as ingenue in over 40 films – leading roles in B pictures but usually supporting roles in major ones.

She was the distraught daughter who asks investigator Nick Charles to locate her missing father in *The Thin Man* (1934), the first of the series and the start of a lifelong friendship between the actress and Myrna Loy ("I loved Maureen's warm exuberance," wrote Myrna Loy later). In *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* (1934), she was Henrietta, the romantically rebellious younger sister of Elizabeth Barrett, and in George Cukor's classic film of *David Copperfield* (1935) she was Dora, David's silly and ill-fated wife.

She was a flirtatious relative of Anna (Greta Garbo) in *Anna Karenina* (1935) and in *Tod Browning's* bizarre *Devil Doll* (1936) she was the daughter of a wrongly convicted banker who gets his revenge by re-

ducing his enemies to the size of dolls. With Allan Jones, she provided the romantic element in *A Day at the Races* (1937), starring the Marx Brothers – O'Sullivan played the owner of the sanatorium over which Dr Quackenbush (Groucho) is put in charge – and she came to England in 1938 to film *A York of Oxford* in which she vied with Vivien Leigh for Robert Taylor (Leigh had been O'Sullivan's best friend at Roehampton when they were girls). One of the film's uncredited writers was E. Scott Fitzgerald, who reputedly developed a romantic admiration for the actress and built up her part.

O'Sullivan was unhappy, though, that she was primarily identified with the role of Jane, and asked the studio to release her from the Tarzan series. A script was written in which the couple would have a son (adopted to placate the censors), and Jane would be killed by a hostile tribe, but when word leaked out, public protest proved so great that the studio reshoot the ending of *Tarzan Finds a Son* (1939) and gave O'Sullivan a raise in salary.

She was given the role of Jane Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice* (1940) but this was her last major MGM film, and when her contract expired after *Tarzan's New York Adventure* (1942), O'Sullivan settled down to raise her large family. She returned to films in 1948 in her husband's fine film noir *The Big Clock*, playing the wife of a magazine editor (Ray Milland), and followed this with another of Farrow's films *Where Danger Lives* (1950) as a girlfriend of the doctor (Robert Mitchum).

In the mid-1950s she hosted a television show, *Irish Heritage*, but spent most of her time nursing Mia through a bout of polio. In 1958 her son Michael was killed in an aeroplane crash while taking flying lessons and in 1963 her husband died.

O'Sullivan had by then begun an active career in the theatre and in 1962 had opened in a hit comedy *Never Too Late*, receiving the best notices of her career as a middle-



O'Sullivan (Jane) and Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan) in *Tarzan and His Mate*, 1934

Kobal

aged wife who becomes pregnant. Wrote *Variety*: "She looks great and handles light comedy with a warm, gracious flair." She starred with the same leading man, Paul Ford, in the screen version (1965). She also starred in the Broadway version of the British comedy *No Sex Please, We're British* (1973), gave an excellent performance in an all-star revival of Paul Osborn's *Morning At Seven* (1983), and continued until a few years ago to be active in television.

O'Sullivan often professed a desire to remarry: "Children don't take the place of a husband," she said. "Many women – and I am one

of them – need both." In the late 1960s she fell in love with the actor Robert Ryan and it was thought that they would wed, but he then became ill and died in 1973, with O'Sullivan at his bedside. In 1983 she finally married again, to James E. Cushing, a building contractor.

A liberal, outspoken woman – when her two sons were arrested for possession of marijuana she commented that if youths want to indulge in activities it is their decision – she played mother to Mia in *Woody Allen's Hannah and Her Sisters* (1986), but Allen fired her from his film *September* (1987) and five years later, when his romance with her

daughter broke up, she denounced him as a "desperate and evil man". Over the years she came to appreciate the eternal appeal of the Tarzan films and their place in cinema history. "It's nice to be immortal," she stated, "and film has given us immortality."

Tom Vallance

Maureen Paul O'Sullivan, actress, born Boyle, Co Roscommon, Ireland 17 May 1911; married 1936 John Farrow (died 1963); two sons, four daughters, and one son deceased; 1983 James E. Cushing; died Phoenix, Arizona 22 June 1998.



Leet's *Digging for Victory at Eton*, 1941

Sotheby's Picture Library

Gerald Leet

GERALD LEET was an art master, a painter, a book collector and man of mystery.

As a neo-Romantic portrait painter he was an exact contemporary of Carol Weight, with whom as a young man he shared a studio. He experimented with Surrealism and in his last years produced collage. From humble beginnings he worked his way into accommodation at Windsor Castle, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother having commissioned from him a series of portraits of her staff. He served as official war artist in New Delhi and taught at Eton. Nothing gave him greater pleasure than to compartmentalise his life and friends and to tamalise dealers with offers to sell books and paintings which often failed to materialise.

Gerald Mackenzie Leet – he sometimes called himself Gerald Mackenzie – was born in London in 1913, studied at the Goldsmiths' School of Art from 1929 to 1934. From 1934 to 1937 he was a student at the Royal Academy of Art, and for a further year he enrolled at the Courtauld. His first teaching appointment was at Ealing School of Art. He seems to have spent much of the Second World War in South Africa and Egypt, and it was in 1945 that he came to the attention of Lord Wavell when he was Viceroy of India; it was Wavell who arranged his appointment as official war artist in New Delhi.

In September 1946 Leet was appointed assistant drawing master at Eton, where he worked under the legendary Wilfred Blunt, art master from 1938 to 1959. He remained at Eton until 1949, when he moved into Windsor Castle, working three days a week as a teacher at Brighton College of Art while executing a series of portraits for the Queen – now the Queen Mother. He specialised in portraits of the great and famous, claiming intimate friendship with the Mountbattens, Field Marshal Auchinleck and assorted Turkish princes and Greek princesses.

It was in 1933 that Leet met the fellow art student he came to admire but whose sometimes vitriolic pen he learnt to fear. Denton Welch was two years his junior, and in the early days of their uneasy friendship Welch spent a good deal of time and energy lending Leet's unwelcome advances. But Leet was precisely the sort of person by whom Welch was both fascinated and repelled, and he was destined to be immortalised as Mark Lynch in Welch's most famous novel, *A Voice Through a Cloud* (published posthumously in 1980), and as Gerard Hope in "A Novel Fragment" (in *A Last Sheriff*, 1961). Welch's comprehensive account of his three years at Goldsmiths'.

It was Gerald Leet who, uninvited, decided to accompany Denton Welch to tea with Walter Sickert, a hilarious adventure which provided Welch, in 1942, with his first published prose, in Cyril Connolly's *Horizon*. Sickert's farewell to the two young men – "Come again when you can't stop so long!" – has often been misquoted but never improved upon.

Leet painted Welch, and amassed a small but valuable collection of Welch's work. One of Leet's paintings was sold to an American collector in 1990 for £14,500, the same year that *Digging for Victory*, a painting executed in 1941, was sold for £3,800. In 1997 it was purchased at Sotheby's by Eton College for £4,500. Not surprisingly, Leet exhibited at the Eton Art Gallery; more ambitiously, at the Isobar Gallery in Hampstead and at the Halifax and Manchester City Art Galleries.

Denton Welch had the grace to admit that Leet was a better draughtsman than he, and he learnt a lot from him, but he could not resist recording in print some unattractive, or at any rate boring and snobbish, traits in Leet's complex character. And, although Leet retained fond memories of Welch, he always felt hurt by his treatment of him in print, albeit having his name disguised. He resolutely declined to co-operate over Welch's biography.

Leet had a brother who predeceased him, but no other family, depending for intermittent entertainment on a wide circle of friends, who recall him as a brilliant conversationalist and mimic but an inveterate name-dropper. He lived for young men – "Come again when you can't stop so long!" – has often been misquoted but never improved upon. In old age he assumed the mantle of a sparkling and amusing elderly raconteur. Yet he remained a very private person.

Whether there was ever any great secret in need of suppression may be doubted. More likely, he enjoyed subterfuge for his own sake. He would suddenly appear in a local bookshop with some precious object that might or might not be for sale, and as suddenly disappear again for months. He seemed always to be putting people to some sort of test, and not many passed. Those few who did pass must have been richly rewarded.

In his late years he suffered two strokes, and finally moved into a Brighton nursing home, where he died after returning the previous day to his flat to retrieve some of his favourite paintings.

Michael De-la-Noy

Gerald Mackenzie Leet, painter, teacher and collector; born London 1913; died Brighton 18 June 1998.

Tom Richards

THE LONG tradition of journalism in Wales has produced many newsmen who have cut their teeth with provincial papers and then gone on to make their mark in London. But Tom Richards, professional to his fingertips, was content to stay at home.

Born in Towyn, Merioneth, in 1909, but brought up in Dolgellau, Richards was the son of a station-master at what is known to English tourists as Dovey Junction. He spoke Welsh as his first language, and all his creative writing was done in Welsh, but it was in English that he chose to work as a journalist. It was a language that he loved, and wrote with precision and panache.

His career began in 1927 when, straight from school, he landed his first job as a reporter with the *Cambrian News*, in Cardiganshire, after which the ink was in his blood. Eight years later he joined the *Western Mail* in Cardiff, a paper then

owned by Lord Thomson, and worked there for seven years as a sub-editor.

Exempted from call-up in 1939 because he had lost a leg at the age of 15 as a result of tuberculosis, he was appointed campaigns officer with the Welsh Region of the Ministry of Information in 1942. Moving to the BBC as publicity officer in 1945, he became an indispensable member of its staff at a time when resources were scarce and programmes made in shoestring budgets called for ingenuity and perseverance.

Although later in life he was to regret his lack of higher education and the fact that he had not even trained as a reporter, he was widely read in what he called "an unsystematic and time-wasting way".

In 1952 he was promoted to the post of News Editor at the BBC in Cardiff, where he pioneered both radio and television news. Among the young men he took on as newsmen was Michael Aspel.

This was a difficult era for the Corporation in Wales. There was growing pressure for better news coverage in both Welsh and English and for a wider variety of programmes. Conservative and Labour allegations of Nationalist bias further complicated an already fraught operation, and Richards was seen as the man who could cast an unbiased eye over Welsh broadcasting, because he kept his politics to himself.

Together with his assistants Wyn Roberts (later a Tory Secretary of State for Wales, and now Lord Roberts of Conwy) and John Ormond Thomas, who was to make his mark as a poet and film-maker, Richards was given the laborious task of working out how many Plaid Cymru members had taken part in talks and discussions in 1955. Several months later, it was announced that of the 360 speakers in that year's programmes, only 15 were known to be party members. The Ince Report of 1956, charged

with looking into the matter, came to the conclusion that some criticism of a lack of balance over the previous six years was justified, but that "if Nationalism in the widest sense is considered, then it is difficult for the Broadcasting Council in Wales to avoid such charges... as it has the duty to pay full regard to the distinctive cultural interests of Our People in Wales". The Nats under the Mats scare was over.

Richards took over as the BBC's representative in west Wales in 1963, remaining in that post until his retirement six years later. It was there, at the west Wales branch of the BBC in Alexandra Road, Swansea, that I first met him – a street-wise man with a genuine interest in younger colleagues and not averse to offering them advice and relating mildly scurrilous anecdotes, especially about members of the broadcasting establishment in Wales. "News is what they don't want

you to hear," was one of his favourite axioms.

His genial, rather shy personality marked a mischievous sense of humour which is to be seen at its best in his plays, especially *Y Cymro Cyffwrdd* ("The Ordinary Welshman", 1980) and *Mi Glywaf Dyner Lois* ("I Hear a Tender Voice", 1982). His choice of Welsh as the medium for his plays was explained in a no-nonsense manner in an essay he wrote for my book *Artists in Wales* (1971): "I think in dialogue, I talk to myself, and when I hear other people talking, they do so in Welsh."

Writing of the prospects for literature in the Welsh language, he referred to what he called the Orymdandias syndrome: "In the all-English desert of 21st-century Wales, some diligent researcher may stumble on this mysterious body of writing and will no doubt be impressed by its glorious past, if he manages to decipher it. We still

have time, though, to try the other way." It comes as something of a surprise to learn that he chose to bring up his two sons without the language.

Richards's masterpiece is the novel *Mae'r Oll yn Gysegredig* ("All is Sacred", 1966), set in the fictitious town of Llanathrod ("Ll-bellylle"), where a miracle is reported by the local paper. The story is taken up by the London dailies and is about to be made into a film, much to the consternation of the chapels and the town's bigwigs.

Out of this farcical little story, not unlike that of *Clochoweria*, the author pokes a good deal of delicious fun at the expense of small-town attitudes; it is one of the funniest novels ever published in Welsh. I can still hear him chuckling as he explained to me how he had based much of it on his own experience as a newsmen of more than 40 years.

Meic Stephens



Thomas Hugh Richards, journalist and playwright; born Towyn, Merioneth, 28 September 1909; News Editor BBC (Cardiff) 1952-63; representative, BBC West Wales 1963-69; married 1944 Aelwen Williams (two sons); died Swansea 19 June 1998.

Students say their tutors fail them

BY JUDITH JUOD
Education Editor

STUDENTS' QUALITY of life has deteriorated sharply during a decade of university expansion, according to a survey of students from leading private schools.

Almost a quarter of students meet their tutor at best only once every three weeks, and 4 per cent never see their tutors at all.

A survey of 6,400 former pupils carried out by the Girls' Schools Association and the Headmistresses' Conference found that a quarter were never taught in a group of fewer than 14 students.

Just a third said work was set and marked at least once a week. Some said it was never marked.

Dr Philip Cheshire, head of Warwick School and co-chair of the schools' working party on universities, said: "The findings raise big questions about whether enough money is being spent to allow students to have enough tutorial support."

Students also had worries about safety. One said: "Fireworks and rocks hitting your window on the eighth floor can be annoying." Another said of her accommodation: "It's disgusting, next to a hostel full of

UNIVERSITIES MAKING THE GRADE

How former independent school pupils rate the universities, in rank order.

Top for accommodation:
Leeds Metropolitan;
Warwick; St Andrews;
Kingston; Cambridge.

Top for recreational facilities:
Warwick; Loughborough;
Glasgow; Bath; Birmingham.

Top for safety:
Lancaster; Kingston; St Andrews; Imperial College, London; Aberystwyth.

Top for food:
Plymouth University of the West of England;
Nottingham Trent; Oxford Brookes; Aberystwyth.

Examples of subjects with heaviest workload:
Architecture;
Biochemistry;
Chemistry;
Engineering.

Subjects with lightest workload:
Accountancy and Finance; French; History of Art; Politics.

drug addicts and thieves." And a third reported: "Even the rats go out in pairs."

Students' workload varied sharply depending on both their subject and their university, with Oxford, Cambridge and Imperial College, London, demanding the most.

A second survey by the working party, of 12,500 private-school pupils who applied to university last autumn, found that interviewing standards were variable and sometimes eccentric.

Some interviews lasted only

two minutes and applicants for one university course were thrown an apple as they came through the door.

Other candidates were summoned for an interview and treated to the university's sales pitch.

Tony Evans, head of King's College School, Wimbledon, said: "Many interviewers are under great pressure, dealing with huge numbers and without necessarily having been trained."

Although most candidates' experience of applying to uni-

versity was good, there were exceptions. The number of reports of racial prejudice was 24, more than three times that for the same survey last year. All but one of these concerned the highly competitive subject of medicine.

There was also one complaint of sexual prejudice, from a woman who was greeted by the comment: "You seem to be a bit of a slapper."

Mr Evans said there was increasing evidence that the quality of pupils' GCSEs rather than their A-levels was the deciding factor in whether candidates were offered places on the most popular courses.

For subjects such as medicine, admissions tutors were simply totting up the number of A's applicants had scored at GCSE. Mr Evans added: "It is very sad. In medicine, for example, it is not necessarily best to pick candidates on the basis of the A's they scored at 16. There are other human qualities which need to be assessed."

Schools reported 80 examples of "golden hellos" offered by universities - ranging from a £2,000 bursary for engineering applicants who scored two A grades and a B at A-level, to the promise of a free pen and carrier bag for students entering another engineering course.



Emma Borton from the Samaritans carries a painting by Hestor Blankstyn specially commissioned for the launch in London of the 'Come Up' campaign to encourage young people to use the Samaritans
Neville Elder

Academics explore jungle and techno

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

UNIVERSITIES HAVE declared drum'n'bass, techno, house and garage subjects of serious academic study.

Nineteen research academics and one club owner will gather in a lecture theatre at Leeds University tomorrow to interpret the oeuvre of rapper Tricky, deconstruct the Prodigy and debate the "formation of value judgements" among jungle DJs.

A symposium will hear Dr Hillegonda Rietveld, a senior lecturer at South Bank University, discuss the identity of club, garage and house, while a Sheffield University research fellow, Nicholas Dibben, is planning to examine the "normative man and machine relationship" in the recent work of Spooky That Subliminal Kid.

The two-day conference will also try to interpret the cultural significance of "Smack My Bitch Up" by the Prodigy, as-



Keith Flint of the Prodigy

sess whether "four to the floor" techno answers critiques of contemporary culture and consider the underground dance scene in Sydney.

The organisers have also planned a Friday night field trip to allow a little practical criticism on the dance floor of a Leeds nightclub.

The conference organisers, Dr Steve Sweeney-Turner, a

lecturer in music at Leeds University, said he wanted to examine the development of dance culture in the 10 years since the first illegal raves were organised in the late 1980s, fuelled by the dance drug, ecstasy.

Dr Sweeney-Turner, who organised a symposium on Britpop last year, explained that he will be trying to "map the various forms of ambivalence and deviance which underpin Tricky's work" at the conference.

He said: "There's no way of avoiding it. It is the music of Britain in 1998."

"It's the 10th anniversary of the summer of love in 1988 and it's important because the Manchester scene exploded around 10 years ago as well and gave us the starting point for everything we have had during the 1990s."

"This is not just about music. We have sociologists, cultural studies specialists, as well as diehard musicologists."

Minister denies plan to charge city drivers

MOTORISTS WILL not be charged for driving into congested city centres in the near future, Gavin Strang, the transport minister, said yesterday.

Dismissing newspaper reports that drivers would face charges of £10 to use urban streets, Dr Strang said that road pricing was a "medium-term" measure that would require substantial changes to existing laws.

"The priority in the short term is to give drivers more options and that means more public transport," Dr Strang said at the launch of the Government's survey into "travel trends".

The move marks yet another retreat for transport ministers, whose original plans were vetoed by Downing Street as "anti-car". The Government's own surveys show Britons are increasingly dependent on the car for travel.

On average each person in Britain travels more than 5,370 miles per year in a car - up a third over the past decade and more than 10 times further than in 1952. According to the statistics, the volume of car traffic has increased by 14 times in the past 45 years, and by 1996 there were 23 million cars registered in Britain.

The study also shows that the richer people become the more mileage they clock up. Those who find themselves in the top 20 per cent of the income scale drive five times as

BY RANDEEP RAMESH
Transport Correspondent

far in a year than the poorest fifth of society.

However high-earning car owners, said Dr Strang, need have no fear from the forthcoming White Paper on transport. "I really don't think we are targeting any particular group according to their income."

One group that will be targeted by ministers is the "many-car family". Figures show the growth of two- and three-car households will ensure that more vehicles will be on the nation's streets. Many of these will be bought by young women - who are less likely at present to hold driving licences.

"If a two-car family choose to come down to one car, then we want it to be because we have supplied good public transport," said Dr Strang.

Ministers acknowledge that they face a "huge challenge" to change the culture of car use. The research points out that the average Briton manages only 348 miles a year on a bus and a little over 300 miles by train.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who is in charge of transport, has made it clear he wants drivers to use their cars less. His department's White Paper, due out next month, is still likely to introduce "sticks and carrots" to get motorists out of their cars.

Other plans that have yet to be discounted include parking

taxes to raise money for public transport and a permit scheme, which would limit traffic levels in busy areas.

Road pricing is, at present, considered too complicated to implement in the next few years, although it has not been ruled out and many experts say millions of pounds could be raised with congestion charges. Researchers in Leicester - which is experimenting with an electronic tolling system - say a £1-a-day charge for motorists entering the city would raise £70m a year.

"There are a number of options which we are still discussing. The 7,300 responses to our consultation were overwhelmingly in favour of our objectives," said Dr Strang.

The White Paper is likely to concentrate on "small scale" measures that will reduce car mileage. Ministers have been advised that if one in every 10 car trips made for "leisure" could be made on public transport the rise in traffic levels could be halted. But yesterday's report highlighted how difficult the aim of reducing car mileage will be. Nearly 70 per cent of shopping trips in rural areas are made by car.

Persuading people to switch from their cars to trains and buses is driven by the Government's desire to meet tough environmental targets. Road use accounts for nearly a quarter of all carbon dioxide emissions - which must be cut by 2010.

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8/PARLIAMENT & POLITICS

An Old Labour warhorse springs to Lilley's defence

A TASTE of what might have been was given to the Tory party yesterday afternoon when Peter Lilley, the new deputy leader, stood in for William Hague, whose mum wouldn't let him come out to play as he was still laid up with flu. Mr Hague, the dynamic youngest Tory leader this century - personal trainer Seb Coe, expert in judo, careful with his diet - proved that good old-fashioned heavy smoking and drinking, to excess, is the only way to get through a career in Parliament.

So how did Mr Lilley perform? Awkwardly and nervously he got through the ordeal with good preparation, raising a government defeat

in the Lords by a Labour rebellion on Scottish university tuition fees.

It seems that English students who study at Scottish universities, will have to pay an extra year's tuition fees compared with students at English universities. Mr Lilley said this was unfair, but I could not quite warm to his argument.

Philosophically, Mr Blair is doing what the Tory right should have had the courage to do years ago. The Government's line is that students' eventual earning power is increased, and by paying their whack, there is more cash in the kitty for higher education. Didn't we spend years, Peter, urging Mrs Thatcher to do the same?

Mr Lilley, who stopped at the dispatch box as shadow Chancellor, has been moved to the back room with the egg-heads. While he did not disgrace himself, it is clear that Mr Hague, if nothing else, is a better Commons performer than all his leadership rivals.

My suspicions about Mr Lilley's argument were further aroused when the old Labour left-wing warhorse Dennis Canavan (Lab, Falkirk West) came to his rescue.

"May I ask the Prime Minister an awkward question, even if it may cause embarrassment?" Mr Canavan, who has recently been barred from being a Labour candidate for the Scottish Assembly, re-

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

peated Mr Lilley's arguments in the context of the old Labour view that education, education, educa-

tion, is free, free, free. He demanded a free vote. Tories went wild with ironic cheers.

This did get the Prime Minister's goat. Awkward questions? Free votes? Who is this man?

Mr Blair responded firmly: "It will be a whipped vote because it is Government policy." And although he did not say it, I could imagine his brain box ticking: "And what is more, if you rebel I will get you de-selected from Westminster as well."

The day began with one of the New Labour backbenchers performing the usual brown-nose routine. Dr George Turner (Lab, North Norfolk) wanted to know (or

rather was told by the whips that the House needed to know) what the Prime Minister's reaction was to yesterday's edition of the Sun describing him as a dangerous man. The Sun is getting distinctly edgy about Mr Blair's pro-Europe single currency policy. "Was the Prime Minister shocked, amused or flattered?" asked Dr Turner.

Mr Blair said he had only seen a digest of the report, "provided by my admirable, objective, press secretary, which described how I have the potential to be a truly great prime minister."

Moving to the substance of the Prime Minister's reply, the House was told that: "The British people

will decide; not the Sun." And the Government will refuse to rule the single currency out, on principle.

Deputising for Paddy Ashdown, Alan Beith (Lib Dem, Berwick-upon-Tweed) wanted to know whether future calls from Rupert Murdoch would now be refused by the No 10 switchboard. He hoped that "monopoly control in the media" would be outlawed.

The Prime Minister responded by saying that just because a newspaper expresses a view against the single currency, "we shouldn't legislate against it."

Wow! Tony! Maybe the control freaks are releasing their grip after all.

Mine ban treaty to be pushed through

BRITAIN MAY ratify the Ottawa Convention on land-mines before MPs break for the summer, the Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, said yesterday.

There had been complaints that the treaty, which bans the manufacture, export, import and supply of land-mines, would not become law in the UK before the anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, who had campaigned for the abolition of land-mines.

Ministers had said they would legislate to ratify the treaty as soon as parliamentary time became available, but it had not been thought there would be any action before the autumn.

Mr Robertson told an international conference in London on land-mine elimination that ministers were actively looking at ways of pushing through the necessary legislation in the next month.

"We are looking at this matter with some degree of urgency and we have not ruled out taking more rapid action than was previously assumed," he told the conference organised by the British Red Cross.

Mr Robertson told the conference that ratifying the Convention remained one of the Government's "key priorities" and that he would discuss it with other ministers yesterday.

"We are looking very care-

LAND-MINES

By FRANK ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

fully at how we could get the ratification through as quickly as possible," he said.

Ministers had argued that the crowded legislative programme - including the measures needed to implement the Northern Ireland peace settlement - meant that ratification would have to wait until the next parliamentary session.

Mr Robertson said there were still legal problems to be ironed out over the issue of British troops working alongside allied forces which had not ratified the convention.

Britain is one of 126 states to have signed the Ottawa Treaty, but so far only 20 have ratified it, although France is expected to do so tomorrow.

It requires 40 states to ratify a treaty before it can be enforced and Mr Robertson said he still hoped that Britain would be among that leading group. He paid tribute to the role played by the Princess of Wales in generating the international will to secure the Ottawa Convention.

"She contributed enormously to bringing the world's attention to the devastating effects of anti-personnel land-mines and thereby to the success of the Ottawa process," he said.



Chris Smith joins the conductor Sir Simon Rattle, and the singer Leslie Garrett, in a jam session at a south London school yesterday. Tom Pilston

Fresh rebellion over tuition fees

A FRESH Commons rebellion over the introduction of tuition fees was threatened last night after a Scottish Labour backbench MP challenged Tony Blair over the policy at Prime Minister's Question Time.

Mr Blair rejected left-wing demands for a free vote on the issue when the Bill to impose tuition fees returns to the Commons to overturn a defeat inflicted in the Lords on Tuesday.

With peers, parents, and teachers raising objections to the move, a renewed revolt in the Commons is threatened, following the rebellion by more than 20 Labour MPs earlier this month. Mr Blair rejected an appeal to make it a free vote, and warned that the Government would impose a whip on the vote in the Commons.

Dennis Canavan, the Labour MP for Falkirk West, silenced his own side but won cheers

EDUCATION

By COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

from Tory MPs when he gave his backing to an attack on Mr Blair by the deputy leader of the Conservative Party, Peter Lilley.

Mr Canavan is a veteran left-wing rebel, and Mr Blair made light of his attack. "He is entitled to ask an awkward question. Indeed, why change the habit of a lifetime?" he said.

But the outspoken nature of his assault on the Prime Minister in supporting the Opposition will intensify speculation that he could be deselected for

disloyalty from his Westminster seat. Mr Canavan was excluded from the shortlist of candidates for the Scottish Parliament.

"Why should students from England, Wales, Northern Ireland, doing a four-year course at Scottish universities have to pay £1,000 more than students from any other country in the EU?" he asked.

He claimed applications for admission to Scottish universities were down 4.5 per cent and said Mr Blair had said

during the general election campaign that Labour had no plans to introduce tuition fees.

The class came over the government defeat in the House of Lords on the Government's Bill to introduce tuition fees in a way which could leave students travelling across the border to Scotland from England £1,000 worse off.

Mr Lilley and Mr Canavan said it was wrong that English students should be worse off than students from other EU countries.

Home Office softens stance

BATTERED WOMEN
By FRANK ABRAMS

BATTERED women who risk being deported if they leave their husbands may be treated more sympathetically in future, a Home Office minister said yesterday.

Mike O'Brien, the immigration minister, rejected calls for a change in the immigration rules, which demand that spouses stay married a year before applying to remain here. But he said he was looking at other ways of easing the plight of women who could not leave violent husbands because they were barred from state help and had no legal right to stay.

Replying to a debate brought by Margaret Moran (Lab, Luton S), Mr O'Brien said: "What might be entirely defensible for the generality of cases could also have the effect of placing a relatively small minority of women in a terrible dilemma."

While the Government believed the rule was necessary to prevent marriages of convenience by people seeking to live in Britain, he said there would be an announcement soon of concessions on the issue.

"If we make a rule change it is a bigger step and we need to ensure we get it entirely right. What we are seeking to do is to balance controls and compassion. It raises difficult issues, but they are not insurmountable," he said.

Campaigners have argued that women in violent marriages often find themselves in a strange culture with no support and are unable to get help. Because they are not allowed to receive state aid they cannot go to refuges, which are dependent on housing benefit.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Football racism

Tony Banks, Sports Minister, told Richard Spring (Con, W Suffolk) that it has been recommended that the Football Offences Act 1991 be amended to make racist abuse by spectators an offence, and to ensure schoolchildren have regular access to playing fields.

Child protection

THERE were 32,400 children and young people on child protection registers in England on 31 March 1997, Health Minister Paul Boateng told Tom Cox (Lab, Tooting).

Case reviews

The Criminal Cases Review Commission has received 483 cases to reassess up to the end of May 1998, Home Office Minister Alan Michael told Dale Campbell-Savours (Lab, Wokingham).

Gun surrender

By the end of September 1997, 116,664 large-calibre handguns had been surrendered. Also, 26,371 small calibre pistols were surrendered voluntarily, Mr Michael told Mr Cox.

Prison numbers

The projected prison population for 2005 is 82,800. There are currently 65,000 prisoners, Prisons Minister Joyce Quin told Paul Flynn (Lab, Newport West).

Ministers 'duped' on vitamin B6 sales ban

MINISTERS WERE duped by officials into banning over-the-counter sales of large doses of vitamin B6, a former Tory agriculture minister alleged yesterday.

Angela Browning (Tiverton and Honiton) told the Commons that while she was in office, Department of Health officials tried to convince her to introduce such a change. But at the time she rejected the suggestions, asking for more scientific evidence to back up the contention. "Frankly you were set up," she told Jeff Rooker, Minister of State for Agriculture.

The decision to make 10mg or more doses of B6 only available by prescription was taken following the advice of two independent committees after studying the effects of the drug.

MPs echoed the criticism of Tuesday's select committee report which condemned the Government for accepting

HEALTH
By SAM COATES

flawed advice. They also criticised its handling of the affair.

Mr Rooker should not have opted to use the "legislative sledgehammer," in preference to warning the public of the potential danger, said Keith Simpson (Con, Mid Norfolk), who opened the debate. Comparing the situation to the beef-on-the-bone affair, Mr Simpson said the evidence on which the decision was based was "scientifically unjustifiable".

He added: "I have to say the minister is rapidly becoming the biggest nanny of them all and symbolises for consumers throughout the country that he represents the ultimate nanny state."

Brian Iddon (Lab, Bolton SE), who has a doctorate in chemistry, came out strongly against the move, saying: "Such

a high safety figure has never been involved in anything that is taken orally and described as a foodstuff. If applied to beer we would only be recommended one teaspoonful of beer every day - which is ridiculous."

David Tredinnick (Con, Bosworth) accused the Department of Health of being out of touch with public opinion. "I am surprised your party has got itself into such a tangle. You want not just to lengthen life in this country, but to lengthen the quality of life," he said.

However Mr Rooker's actions were defended by Austin Mitchell (Lab, Great Grimsby), a member of the agriculture committee.

"What is a responsible minister to do in that situation - ignore it, gloss it over, or do what the minister in fact did, which is propose a regulation and put it out to consultation?" he asked.

New crackdown on hooligans

WORLD CUP VIOLENCE
By COLIN BROWN

A SHARP increase in the number of football thugs expelled from France is expected before tomorrow's crunch match between England and Colombia.

At the request of the French authorities, more police "spotters" are being sent from Britain to the north-eastern town of Lens to help identify more known hooligans before the match which will determine whether England go through to the next round.

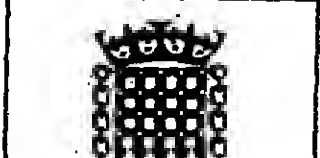
The Home Office said last

night that there would be a "significant" increase in the number of British police in plain-clothes mixing with the fans before the game.

The French this week passed emergency laws to allow them to deport known troublemakers who had committed no crimes. The deportations began with four potential football hooligans,

identified by British spotters. "They travel around with the fans. They know the hooligans, and the hooligans know them, so they are a deterrent but the French brought in emergency powers to expel known offenders," a Home Office spokesman said. "It will certainly increase our potential to do that."

France is also refusing to allow into the country any hooligans identified at ports of entry on the grounds that they "represent a threat to public order."



Four held after protest strip

FOUR MEN made a stark statement by stripping off outside the Houses of Parliament yesterday. They staged their protest about the confines of society and their right to be naked where and when they wanted on Abingdon Green, almost opposite the House of Lords. Police later arrested them when they refused to get dressed.

Klan threat

THE KLU Klux Klan are operating in Bethnal Green and Bow, in east London, according to Oona King, Labour MP for the area.

She told Tony Blair during question time that ethnic minorities represent an opportunity, not a threat. "While this country has no need of pointed white hats, in this Chamber we could perhaps do with a bit more colour," she said. Mr Blair said measures had been introduced into the Crime and Disorder Bill to fight racism.

Today in the Commons

■ Questions to the Chancellor
■ Opposition day: Government Strategy on Social Welfare
■ Adjournment debate: Environmental protection for Forest of Dean

Drink-drive payout could reach £3m

MORE THAN £300,000 compensation has been paid to about 60 motorists who were wrongly convicted of drinking and driving after police tested their blood with swabs containing alcohol, it was revealed yesterday.

Up to 400 people may be entitled to damages which could cost the Home Office much as £3m in compensation. The payouts so far range from a few thousands pounds to £25,000.

The testing fiasco is one of the worst contamination cases involving police equipment. Solicitors representing about 70 people who have had their convictions quashed said yesterday that many of their clients have had their lives and businesses ruined by the mix-up.

The contamination took place in the Greater Manchester area between March 1987 and December 1988. It happened after police complained that the antiseptic swabs used to wipe over a motorist's arm before taking a blood sample were very old and had become too dry to use.

The police requested new swabs from the Home Office, but were sent wipes that unknowingly contained alcohol and could therefore have contaminated the blood samples. It

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

is unclear whether the Home Office suppliers provided the wrong equipment or the police failed to ask for non-alcoholic wipes.

The Forensic Science Service discovered the mistake and all drivers found guilty during the 18-month period had their convictions quashed.

Greater Manchester police successfully defended a claim for compensation, but the Home Office admitted liability and set up an adjudicator who has authorised up to 40 payments in the past few months. Those who have received compensation include:

■ Two people who attempted suicide after allegedly becoming depressed at the disgrace of being convicted of drinking and driving.

■ A young man who was jailed for three months.

■ Several people who had their photographs, names and addresses published in a local paper's "rogue's gallery".

■ A man who owned a garage and went bust, partly because he was banned from driving.

■ A person who spent a year having to cycle eight miles to a railway station to get to work.

A Home Office spokeswoman said that 58 awards had been made so far and that a further 30 were currently being considered.

A spokeswoman for Greater Manchester police added that the Home Office had supplied the faulty swabs and was paying compensation. But she refused to comment further.

Police and the Home Office are currently considering the introduction of roadside drug-testing equipment, although there is concern that kits are not sensitive enough accurately to detect illegal substances. The Manchester case illustrates another potential pitfall.



The Deputy University Marshal leads university officials in procession past St Mary's Church, Cambridge, for the Senate House ceremony to present an honorary degree to the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, yesterday
Brian Harris

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BT

Dinosaur birds

BIRDS are living dinosaurs with feathers, according to scientists who believe they have resolved one of the longest debates in evolution.

Fossils found in China show that feathers first sprouted from dinosaurs, although they were not used for flying.

Palaeontologists have argued about the origin of birds ever since the first fossil of Archaeopteryx, a reptile-like bird, was discovered in 1861.

Fossils of two long-extinct species of meat-eating dinosaurs have confirmed that birds must have evolved from

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

this group of theropod dinosaurs, said Dr Philip Currie, of the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller, Alberta, Canada, who led the research team.

"It is the first time we have a clear dinosaur skeleton which has feathers. It is the final piece in the jigsaw which shows that birds came from dinosaurs," Dr Currie said.

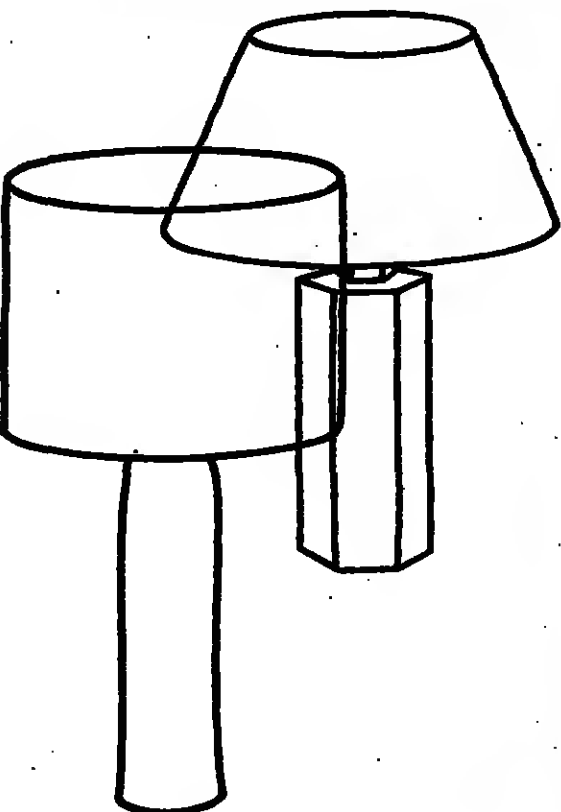
Scientists have a collection of six dinosaurs from China that have feathers or bird-like features.

BIDISHA

'Kids between 4 and 10 are bringing terms such as "nigger" and "Paki" to school along with their sports kit and packed lunch'

— THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4 ➔

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Page 6345 of 6623

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Twins' mother dies of cancer

opportunities. "When my time comes, I want you to tell Lauren and Ashton that I am sorry I had to leave them," she added. "It is the hardest thing I am ever going to have to do."

[illegible]

هَذَا مِنْ الْأَصْلِ

Baghdad scorns 'proof' of nerve gas

IRAQ IS categorically denying that it ever produced VX gas capable of being used in a missile warhead, while the United States says that its laboratory tests show traces of VX poison gas present at a site where Iraq destroyed missiles.

The revelations about the VX are evidently the first shots in a propaganda battle waged by the US to persuade the United Nations Security Council to continue with sanctions on Baghdad when they come up for review in October.

"If this finding is borne out, it will mean the UN Special Commission (on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction) has found evidence that the Iraqis were not telling the truth," a Pentagon spokesman said.

Iraq admits experimenting with VX before the Gulf war, but says the tests failed and it never put the gas in a weapon. Baghdad says that if sanctions are not lifted it will pursue "an alternative strategy".

"This is not a new discovery," Colonel Terry Taylor, a former UN weapons inspector now at the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London, was quoted as saying yesterday. "This is old news, but it is a way of bringing to the fore realities that have been glossed over."

At the weekend, a report from a US army laboratory on missile fragments was leaked to the American press by an Iraqi opposition group called the Iraqi National Congress. It said pieces of missile from a site at Tajil, just north of Baghdad, analysed at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, had produced significant amounts of VX disulphide and stabiliser to allow the VX to be placed in a missile.

But the report is peculiar, as the INC, once a powerful umbrella group for the Iraqi opposition, no longer really exists. Jalal al-Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, which is nominally one of the few remaining members of the INC, told *The Independent* that the group is moribund.

The leaking of the story about VX is likely to anger

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

members of the Security Council opposed to sanctions. The council met yesterday to discuss the latest visit of Richard Butler, head of the UN special team monitoring the elimination of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

In the past, France, Russia and China have complained of leaks of information about which they have not been informed. Iraq is demanding that the tests conducted in the US be repeated in laboratories in neutral countries.

The US may wish to counterbalance recent remarks made by Mr Butler during a visit to Baghdad that progress was being made in certifying that Iraq has eliminated its strategic weapons.

Washington wants to return to a position where the burden of proof was on Iraq to prove it had done away with its weapons, rather than on the UN inspection team to produce evidence that Iraq still possessed such weaponry.

Washington is concerned that during the confrontation with Iraq in February, international support for sanctions was undermined by the realisation that the main victims of sanctions are ordinary Iraqis. Mortality among children under the age of one has tripled since 1989, according to the World Health Organisation.

But Iraq does not have many options. If it expels UN weapons inspectors it may simply prolong sanctions. It needs to show France, Russia and China, its potential supporters in the Security Council, that it is doing its best to co-operate with the UN.

Washington showed in February that it did not want to restart the Gulf war by bombing Iraq. It discovered that the failure to produce an Israeli-Palestinian agreement was eroding its influence among Arab states. US officials have since said privately that they will do everything to maintain sanctions, though they will be more flexible in allowing Iraq to spend money for humanitarian and development needs.



Known for their unique traditional lifestyle, the Amish community has been rocked by the arrest of two of their members for selling cocaine

Sygm



Amish are led into temptation as two face drugs-trafficking charges

WHEN FEDERAL anti-drugs agents summoned the press in Philadelphia to announce their latest bust, they knew they had a story that would attract unusual attention.

Among 10 men accused of trafficking in cocaine were two with the name Stoltzfus. They came, moreover, from Pennsylvania's Lancaster County.

No other clues were needed. Lancaster County, a serene landscape of quaint farms and rolling meadows, is home to the "Plain People", better known as the Amish. And if there is an equivalent to Jones, Smith or Brown among the Amish it is Stoltzfus, a name that echoes their 17th-century German roots.

The agents confirmed the almost unthinkable: two of the men due to face formal charges in federal court next week are members of the Old Order Amish, the most restrictive and conservative of all the Amish sects in America.

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

Not related to each other, Abner King Stoltzfus is 24 and Abner Stoltzfus is 23. More extraordinary still are the details of their alleged crimes, laid out in indictments issued by a grand jury in Philadelphia on Tuesday.

The two men are accused of consorting with members of a notoriously violent motorcycle gang, called the Pagans, to buy and distribute drugs to Amish youth groups in the farming communities of Lancaster County. Most of the others facing prosecution are from the Pagans.

The collisions faced by the Amish between their uniquely traditionalist lifestyle - all modern conveniences, from motor cars to zippers, are banned - and the whirl of late-20th-century society that surrounds them was most famously depicted in the film

Witness, starring Harrison Ford and Kelly McGillis. This, though, is not celluloid fiction. It is horse-and-buggy meets Harley Davidson.

"Bikes and buggies. It's a rather strange combination," agreed State Police Major Robert Werts. "Our drug investigations are taking us to places where years ago we didn't think we had a problem."

According to the indictment, all 10 trafficked in multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine and the illegal street stimulant methamphetamine, worth \$1m, from 1992 until July of last year. Most of the sales were made to the Amish youth groups which go by the names the Crickets, Antiques and Pilgrims. Through them, the drugs allegedly found their way to Amish youth dances.

A third Amish juvenile also said to have been involved is identified only as CS. He will not face charges. If the 10 on the indictment sheet are found

guilty, they could each face life in prison. The 10 will appear before a court to be formally charged on 3 July.

The case highlights the dilemma that the Amish have faced for decades. Because of their unusual lifestyle, they have become unwilling tourist celebrities in their own habitat.

An estimated four million tourists visit Lancaster County annually to marvel at the Amish in their black garb, at the horse-drawn ploughs turning the fields and their one-room schools. With the tourism comes pollution from the outside.

One Amish father in the tiny town of Gap, where both the Stoltzfus men live, pleaded for understanding. He told the *Philadelphia Inquirer*: "I know there are a lot of people out there who think the Amish are perfect, but we've got our struggles and in this day and age drugs is one of the big ones."

That the Amish have a drugs problem was not something anyone outside was aware of until this week, however. "As far as I know, we have never charged any Amish with drug crimes," confirmed Joseph Dominguez, an assistant state attorney for Pennsylvania.

Robert Conforti, a veteran federal agent, concurred: "It's something in my 26 years in the FBI I've never encountered before."

But John Pyfer, the lawyer representing Abner Stoltzfus, revealed that his client was, in fact, a recovering cocaine addict himself. "It just shows you that the temptations that are out there for your kids and my kids have found their way into Amish life. We're just glad they were able to nip this in the bud."

Both Stoltzfus men had taken the traditional "time-out" period that is granted Amish men from the ages of 16

to 24. During this period - in effect a rite of passage - they are allowed to go out amongst the "English", as non-Amish America society is known in the sect, and experience their ways.

At the end of this time, however, the men are expected to decide whether to remain on the outside or to return into the bosom of the church and its antiquarian ways. Most men choose to join the church and apparently that was the decision also of Abner and Abner King.

Pennsylvania's Old Order Amish trace themselves back to a German Anabaptist sect that immigrated to colonial America in the late 1600s. They made their journey after splintering from the larger, and less rigorously traditional, Mennonite Church. They subsist still today entirely on farming. Most of the farmland in Lancaster County is owned by the Amish.

Hamas leader returns in triumph to Gaza

SHEIKH YASSIN, leader of Hamas, the militant Islamic movement, was expected to return to Gaza yesterday after a four-month tour of Arab and Islamic countries, during which he has collected a reputed \$50m (£31m) and established himself as the pre-eminent Palestinian leader after Yasser Arafat.

The controversy, which has delayed Sheikh Yassin's return since 4 June, underlines his growing influence. Egypt has been reluctant to allow him to enter the country in case Israel stops him returning to Gaza through the Rafah border crossing. Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, said that Israel preferred to have the Hamas leader in Gaza than free to roam the Arab world.

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority (PA) has been alarmed by the welcome the sheikh has received during his trip. He was seen by King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah in Saudi Arabia as well as leaders in Tehran, Damascus and Khartoum. Efforts by the PA to ensure that he received a more muted welcome have been largely ineffectual.

On returning to Gaza the Hamas leader is likely to use his increased prestige to demand the release of Hamas prisoners held by the PA, the reopening of Islamic institutions and no pursuit of Hamas members sought by Israel.

Nigeria comes in from the cold

THE DIPLOMATIC deep freeze around Nigeria's military regime is showing the first sign of a thaw, with a phone call yesterday from Tony Blair to the country's new ruler, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, who will now hold talks with a Foreign Office minister this weekend.

The trip to Nigeria by Tony Lloyd, squeezed in under the wire of Britain's presidency of the European Union which ends next week, is a direct response to the release of prominent political prisoners and other conciliatory gestures by General Abubakar since he took power on the death of Sani Abacha on 8 June.

Under the brutal rule of General Abacha, Africa's most populous country had become

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

a pariah state, suspended from membership of the Commonwealth and subject to worldwide sanctions. But after these initial "encouraging" moves by his successor, Foreign Office officials said, significant improvement may be at hand.

The first test will be the fate of Moshood Abiola, the civilian who was poised to win Nigeria's last elections in June 1993 before they were annulled with only preliminary results declared. A year later he was arrested and charged with treason, and the country's descent into tyranny began.

The semi-official word in Nigeria is that Chief Abiola's release could now come "within

days". He has already been moved to more comfortable house arrest, and is understood to have met General Abubakar twice. Indeed, he would probably have been free by now but for his refusal to drop his claim to victory in the 1993 poll.

In the meantime, a no less prominent prisoner, the former military ruler Olusegun Abassajo, has been freed, along with more than a dozen other detainees. "This was an important initial step on the path to reconciliation and a return to democracy," British officials said last night.

It is upon this foundation that Mr Lloyd, representing both Britain and the EU, will seek to build when he meets General

Abubakar tomorrow. The test now is not merely whether the new regime frees Chief Abiola, but whether it pushes ahead with a return to democracy.

Britain and the EU insist that General Abacha's promise of a properly-elected government in place by 1 October must be kept by his successor - but with the crucial difference that the elections are genuinely free. The Abacha version of "elections" was one where he would be the sole candidate. Unsurprisingly, his plans were denounced as a sham by the Commonwealth, which has been considering turning Nigeria's suspension into outright expulsion.

That drastic step can no longer be on the cards. But even

assuming General Abubakar's intentions are of the best, organising elections acceptable to all parties will be the trickiest of tasks, given the ethnic and regional tensions that have always plagued Nigerian politics.

Some opposition groups are demanding that Chief Abiola - a southerner unlike the army commanders who come mainly from the north of the country - take over immediately as head of a new Government of national unity. Others maintain that he alone cannot speak for the entire civilian population.

Whatever decision is taken over the aborted election of 1993 should be a "collective effort," a National Democratic Coalition spokesman said - "it cannot be done by Abiola himself".

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Japan's election hit by apathy

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Tokyo

ELECTIONS TO Japan's house of councillors usually pass by without much notice from the world, but the campaign which kicks off with rallies in Tokyo this morning is an exception. These are exceptional times in Japan which, after seven years of stagnation, finds itself on the brink of its worst recession since the Second World War.

The country's upper house wields about the same power as Britain's House of Lords and - although all are elected - its members have a similar credibility problem. There are serious and concerned politicians in the upper house, but their numbers are diluted by a mixed bag of ageing actors, retired sportsmen, comedians and other celebrity publicity-seekers.

Whatever the broader economic causes, the crisis also represents a huge political mess. In the upper house elections, voters will have their chance to express their anger with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and their prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto. At first glance, Mr Hashimoto would appear to be dead in the water and in any other industrialised democracy his days would surely be numbered. A year ago, things looked bad for the prime minister when the support rating for his cabinet stood at 45 per cent. But this month it slumped to 30 per cent.

Along with the official announcement of the onset of recession, unemployment has risen to more than 4 per cent. Earlier this year, Norio Ohga, the head of Sony and one of the country's most famous businessmen, publicly compared Mr Hashimoto to Herbert Hoover, the American president who ushered in the Great Depression.

Last week, the American Treasury had to prop up the Japanese yen, and one of Japan's biggest banks, LTCB, is on the verge of throwing in the towel.

Mr Hashimoto's personal popularity lags behind that of both the leading opposition leaders: Naoto Kan, of the Democratic Party, a youthful reformer who likes to compare himself to Tony Blair, and Takako Doi, of the Social Democrats, Japan's most famous female politician.

But, in apparent defiance of all known political principles,

Mr Hashimoto's position is secure. The other week, the LDP romped home in a by-election. In the elections on 12 July it has a chance of recapturing its lost majority in the upper house.

The depressing reasons for this explain much about the state of Japan: quite simply, for all his faults, Mr Hashimoto is the best of a dismal lot. Despite their personal popularity, neither Mr Kan nor Mrs Doi have the party support to translate their individual appeal into votes.

The Social Democrats, formerly known as the Socialists, lost their credibility when they sold out their left-wing principles to form a coalition with the ruling LDP in 1994.

The Democratic Party is a messy agglomeration of refugees from other parties, with a nice logo, but without a coherent ideology. The former prime minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone, cruelly but accurately referred to it as "soft ice cream" - fluffy and appealing, but liable to melt in the heat.

Even within his own party the prime minister has few challengers. This is partly because no ambitious LDP politician wants the job of clearing up Mr Hashimoto's mess. Potential successors include the party's secretary-general, Koichi Kato, an ambitious and talented former diplomat; as well as the foreign minister, Keizo Obuchi, and the welfare minister, Junichiro Koizumi.

But the old factional hierarchies of the LDP which virtually guaranteed a change of prime minister every few years, as leading politicians took their turn, have become blurred - even the LDP is undergoing something of an identity crisis.

The most depressing reason for Mr Hashimoto's survival is also the most basic: for all their economic troubles and for all his hesitancy and incompetence, Japanese voters have reacted not with anger but with despair.

Polls suggest that next month's election will have a record low turn-out, as low as 40 per cent. This favours the LDP whose well-organised local branches can be relied upon to bring out the loyalists.

The rest of the country is largely apathetic - conscious of the economic catastrophe bearing down upon it, but unwilling or unable to do anything to change its leaders.

EU probe into cannabis farms

BY KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels

EUROPEAN agriculture ministers are expected to agree today to slash generous public handouts to hemp growers after reports that some entrepreneurial farmers are cultivating millions of pounds in European Union subsidies to cultivate cannabis.

Ministers meeting in Luxembourg are expected to back proposals for a cut of up to 20 per cent in the annual subsidy worth £500 a hectare. They will also agree to more vigilant policing of farms to guard against abuses.

Suspicious in Brussels were raised by a sudden explosion in the area of land given over to the cultivation of hemp, a crop which is legitimately grown to make rope canvas and other textiles.

The area jumped from

around 10,000 hectares in 1995 to 40,000 hectares last year with most of the £10m in annual subsidies claimed by farmers in Britain, the Netherlands, France and Spain.

Although hemp contains only a small amount of the active ingredients which gives cannabis its appeal, it is a member of the same crop family as the illegal plant.

"The leaves look much the same, so we are concerned that some people may be concealing cannabis in the middle of their hemp fields and claiming the subsidy," a European Commission spokesman said. The clampdown has also been prompted by a tip-off suggesting that one of the big hemp processing firms in the Netherlands also has a stake in a chain of "coffee shops" the Amsterdam cafes where dope smokers can indulge their habit without fear of prosecution.

Floods leave 50,000 homeless

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

RUSSIAN MILITARY jets have been bombing giant icebergs that are floating down a river running from the Arctic Ocean into the Russian Far East. In an attempt to offset massive flooding that has driven more than 50,000 people from their homes.

Tens of thousands of people in the vast Sakha republic are "struggling to survive after losing everything" in the floods, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said yesterday, announcing a \$1.2m (£750,000) appeal.

The disaster, which is occurring along the River Lena and its tributaries, is being linked with this year's erratic weather which has brought a fortnight of sweltering heat in Moscow, followed by hurricane-force winds that killed 10 people, damaged the Kremlin, did an estimated \$166m worth of damage and flattened at least 50,000 of the capital's trees.

According to the Red Cross, the floods were caused by a huge build-up of snow and icebergs in the river's northern reaches. "Temperatures rose sharply, causing a rapid thaw, critically raising the water level along the River Lena," said Caroline Hurford, of the Red Cross in Moscow. "Gigantic ice floes were forced down river, causing an ice-jam, which the authorities bombed from the air in an attempt to ease the flow."

The republic, like Russia's federal government, is in fiscal crisis and lacks the funds to pay for the havoc caused by the floods, which have destroyed hundreds of homes and thousands of cattle and horses, as well as causing the evacuation of tens of thousands of rural inhabitants.

"More than 50,000 people, already clinging to a fragile existence before the flood, could soon be pushed beyond endurance when the winter arrives and temperatures drop to minus 40 degrees Celsius," Ms Hurford said.

"The urgency for action is both because people need help now, and because the River Lena, Sakha's main means of transporting assistance, freezes in mid-October."



Three Kosovo Liberation Army fighters armed with AK-47s marching into Kosovo from northern Albania

Arben Celi/REUTERS

Holbrooke meets Albanian fighters in war zone

BY MARCUS TANNER

THE US diplomat trying to broker peace in Kosovo yesterday met armed Albanian fighters from the Kosovo Liberation Army on a tour of battlefields in the province, which has revolted against Serb rule.

Richard Holbrooke encountered the KLA fighters - curiously enough two lawyers, aged 40 and 30, on a visit to Decani in western Kosovo.

The diplomat, touring Belgrade and other Balkan capitals in a search for a diplomatic settlement, was clearly outraged by evidence of Serbia's brutal attempts to crush the insurrection among Kosovo's 1.8 million Albanians.

Surveying the torched houses and empty streets he said it

reminded him of the worst scenes in Bosnia, where he played a crucial role in securing the 1995 peace deal that ended the ethnic fighting there.

"Decani is awful," Mr Holbrooke said. "This was not fighting, this was the Yugoslav security forces driving people out. I think the Serbs should get out of here and the residents should come back and be given

government help to reconstruct their homes."

While Mr Holbrooke met Albanian fighters, the political leader of the Kosovo Albanians yesterday had little success in persuading the Western Alliance to support his people's demand for independence.

At a meeting in Brussels, Javier Solana, Secretary General of Nato, told Ibrahim

Rugova he should resume talks immediately with the Serbian government, while warning him the West would not support Kosovo's independence.

"The Secretary-General made clear to Dr Rugova that he should return to the negotiating table immediately without conditions and resume the search for a negotiated solution," a Nato official said.

The seemingly harsh message to Mr Rugova was prompted by fears that recent Nato warnings of possible air strikes against Serbia were playing into the hands of Kosovo's militants. But the message will please Serbian government of Slobodan Milosevic and will further undermine Mr Rugova's weakened standing in Kosovo in relation to the KLA.

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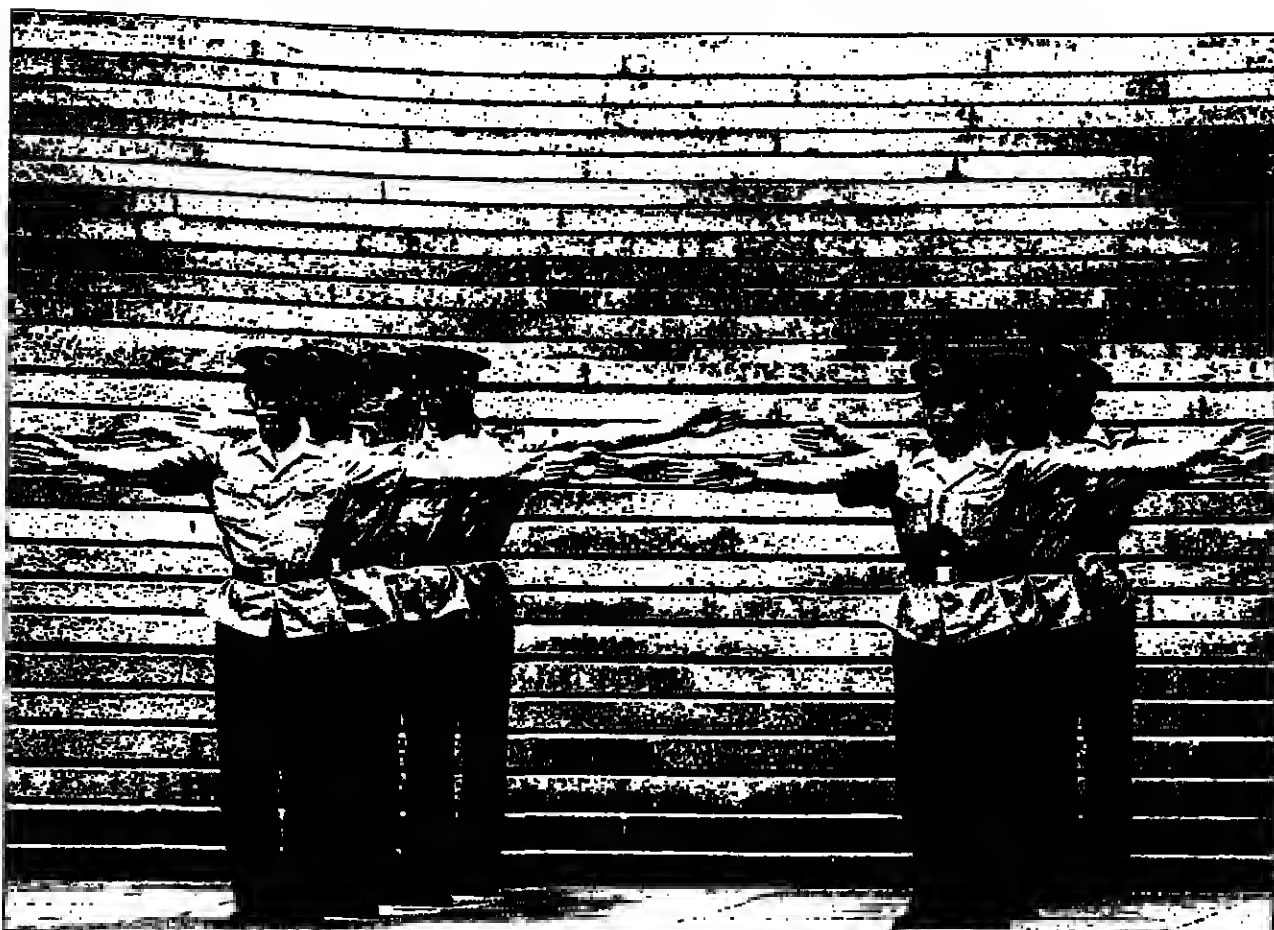
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'I don't want personal development. From what I've seen of him, my inner warrior is a whingeing, niggling little creep who annoys the very people I want to please'



Chinese soldiers on a training drill near the steps of the Great Hall of the People at the side of Tiananmen Square, in Peking, in preparation for President Clinton's visit
Andrew Wong/Reuters

Tiananmen casts shadow on summit

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

PRESIDENT CLINTON arrives in China today on the most controversial state visit of his political career. Even before his plane had landed in the former Imperial capital of Xian, events were conspiring to inflame public opinion back in the United States.

One dissident was detained in one of the cities which Mr Clinton will visit; three of the travelling American journalists had their Chinese visas withdrawn; and the Chinese Communist Party chief who was deposed during the June 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown called on the party to admit that the massacre was "one of the biggest human rights problems this century".

Human rights issues may yet overwhelm the nine-day visit to

the mainland and Hong Kong and represent the biggest political risk both to Mr Clinton and his Chinese host, President Jiang Zemin.

Unexpected controversy could yet derail a summit which is supposed to set the seal on a more stable Sino-American relationship and seek progress on subjects ranging from weapons non-proliferation and trade tariffs to the environment.

Yesterday's surprise came in the form of a letter to the party Central Committee from Zhao Ziyang, the reformist general secretary of the party who has been under house arrest since the massacre on 4 June 1989.

He appealed to China's leaders to re-assess the terrible events of nine years ago. "President Clinton's visit to China marks a turn for the better in Sino-US relations. But the United States and the whole of



Clinton: political risk

the West have again and again raised the 4 June problem and the human rights problem of China," he wrote.

"Rather than let it become an obstacle to international relations, it would be better to resolve the 4 June problem ourselves voluntarily," he said,

though the suggestion will appal China's present leaders.

The letter was seen by the Reuters news agency. There was no way to confirm independently whether it was genuine. But the report will increase the pressure on Mr Clinton to make a forthright statement on the legacy of June 1989 on his visit.

Across China, the country's remnant dissidents are under close watch. In the city of Guilin, police officers took Li Xiaolong, 34, a member of the now-defunct dissident group Human Rights Voice, into custody.

China also withdrew visas from three American journalists on the press plane with Mr Clinton to China. The reporters work for Radio Free Asia, a US government-funded broadcaster which beams its robust anti-Communist coverage of the mainland back into China.

Communist prudes block opera tour

A STAGING of one of China's best-known classic operas, *The Peony Pavilion*, at the Lincoln Center in New York was in jeopardy last night because of an outbreak of communist bureaucratic meddling - if not outright censorship - in Shanghai, where the production has been put together and rehearsed.

The production by the Kunqu Opera Company was to be the centrepiece of the Lincoln Center Festival, which begins next month. The growing controversy over its fate awkwardly coincides with President Bill Clinton's official visit to China, during which cultural exchange will be highlighted.

Even as the opera's six tons of sets, costumes and props sit in containers at Shanghai International airport for a cargo flight to New York, the Municipal Bureau of Culture has decreed that the staging is inappropriate for export because of its "pornography" and accent on "feudalism". The company's departure for New York and a world tour of Paris, Sydney and Hong Kong remains blocked.

Nigel Redden, director of the Lincoln Center, was yesterday making a last-ditch attempt to change the bureau's mind. He flew to Shanghai at the weekend after learning of the embargo, arriving there on Monday. But the *New York Times* reported that he had made no headway, and the tour appeared to be doomed.

The intervention by the Bureau of Culture, considered a hive of old-style communist bureaucrats, puts the Lincoln Center in an embarrassing bind. Written by Tang Xianzu in 1598, the opera, which takes 55 hours to perform in its original

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

format, is due to begin its New York run on 7 July.

Each of its six parts were to be performed over six successive evenings, with a marathon performance of the opera in its entirety over the weekend of 17 July. Unless the sets are airborne by today, Lincoln Center officials say, any hope of salvaging the run will be lost. All of the performances in New York have already been sold out.

The Bureau of Culture is upset by the reinterpretation of the opera by Chen Shi-Zheng, a naturalised American who fled his native China in 1987. The bureau has channelled its disgust with the production into local communist newspapers in Shanghai.

One printed attack in the *Liberation Daily* said of Mr Chen's work: "He is trying to fawn on and pander to some foreigners' biased and prejudiced view of China, intentionally showing the backward and ignorant side of Chinese people. Should classic opera be so misrepresented on stage?" For his part, Mr Chen has only voiced despair.

"It reminds me of the Cultural Revolution, when things that have no relevance to artistic debate take over, like ideology and politics. Once you get to that level, there is nothing more to say. We are not speaking the same language," he said.

Barring an eleventh-hour resolution to the dispute, all eyes in New York will be on Mr Clinton to register his disappointment during his China trip. He is due to arrive in Shanghai next Monday.

Prozac makers act over Chinese copy

THERE IS a lot to be depressed about some days in China - as the inventors of the anti-depressant drug Prozac can confirm.

The American drug manufacturer Eli Lilly said yesterday that it will appeal to China's Supreme Court this month in a last attempt to win patent protection on the mainland for its best-selling Prozac.

Eli Lilly imports and sells about US\$9m a year of Prozac in China.

Its problem is that at least two Chinese pharmaceutical companies are also manufacturing chemically identical copies of Prozac, after judgments by Chinese courts made it legal for anyone to produce the drug and sell it at a lower price.

Complaints by Western companies about intellectual property rights (IPR) infringements in China are nothing new.

IPR disputes have brought the US and China near to tit-for-tat trade wars several times in recent years, and the subject will be on President Clinton's

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

agenda in trade negotiations during his summit visit.

Normally, the problem is straightforward: piracy of copyright goods by Chinese companies, especially computer software, music CDs, CD-Roms, and more recently VCDs.

In these cases, Chinese factories are breaking the law by churning out pirated products which are protected under Chinese laws, but the laws are not implemented.

The US software industry this month said piracy-related losses in China more than doubled last year to US\$1.4 billion, and estimated that 96 per cent of the computer software in use on the mainland was pirated.

The Prozac case is different, because it involves a product which Chinese courts have decided to allow mainland companies to copy, even though international patent agreements signed by Peking would seem to outlaw this.

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Lingering agony of a people ravaged by years of war

THE CAR parts showroom is one of the few buildings still standing in the main street of Kuito: opposite, the former municipal court is an overgrown ruin; on either side houses and shops, destroyed by mortar shells, are little more than mounds of twisted concrete and iron bars.

The showroom, known to everyone in town as Casa Ford, is open for business. The 1950s building is stacked with neat rows of dusty fanbelts and ancient carburetors, but there are few customers. Those wealthy enough to afford cars in Kuito used them to drive away from town years ago.

Kuito has been on the frontline of Angola's civil war for nearly 20 years. The once-beautiful colonial town is in the Angolan highlands, an area traditionally loyal to the rebel leader Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita). The town was virtually razed four years



FRONTLINE
KUITO, ANGOLA

ago during 18 months of fighting which killed one-third of Kuito's population and split the town into two halves, divided by the main street. In its prime retail position Casa Ford was caught in the crossfire. While the owner, his family and 500 neighbours covered inside, Unita soldiers, camped in front of the showroom, bombarded government forces who held the area behind it.

Olegario Cardoso, Casa Ford's owner, is a gentle, prosperous-looking man in his fifties who has lived in Kuito all his life. Unlike many of his friends, he has never been tempted to leave. With eight children and a 94-year-old father who still works in his shop, he believes moving would be impossible.

As he wandered around his cavernous showroom, his memories prompted by the bullet holes and bomb damage which still disfigure the walls and furniture, Mr Cardoso described the months when Casa Ford was home to 500 people.

A gaping hole in the wall facing the street marks the place where one shell hit the building and went through three concrete beams before falling through a set of steel shelving and fragmenting on the floor. Nobody was injured but a bullet hole on the concrete floor by the showroom door tells a sadder story. "We kept the door open all the time," said Mr Cardoso. "A Unita sniper

used to shoot at anyone who tried to cross the road, so we let them run inside to shelter." One day, as a man ducked into the building, a bullet hit the doorway, sending concrete fragments flying. One hit a small boy, killing him instantly. Like many townspeople who died during the siege, the boy was buried in a patch of wasteland behind the showroom, now overgrown with wild flowers. "It was too dangerous to try to get to the cemetery," explained Mr Cardoso.

Hunger claimed Casa Ford's other casualties. Mr Cardoso's wood-paneled office became a makeshift hospital where dozens of people died of starvation. There was no food in the city during the fighting and Unita would not allow United Nations food drops for at least nine months.

These days there is plenty of food in Kuito but few other indications that the town is no longer on the frontline. Everything is makeshift



Life goes on in Kuito but few have faith in the future

and temporary, as though the inhabitants expect it to be blown away at any moment. There are no shops, or even market stalls. Instead, women sit behind scraps of

cloth on the ground, selling piles of bananas, limes, or a single chicken, unplucked and freshly killed. Buildings have been temporarily patched up. Breezblocks, cor-

rugated iron or even the rusted metal wrecks of cars replace glass in the windows and fill holes in the walls. Families cook on open fires inside their houses, or outside on the veranda. Former flower gardens are now planted with maize, which is kept permanently stockpiled. Electricity in the town is haphazard, most schoolchildren have no books and hospitals are kept open by international aid organisations.

The people's pessimism appears justified. Few have faith in a UN-brokered peace agreement between the government and Unita, and the government recently threatened to strike against Savimbi's forces, which are 60 miles from Kuito. Government weapons can be seen at Kuito's small airport and there are rumours of imminent military action. Mr Cardoso has grown used to life on the frontline. Four years after the war officially ended, he still awaits the peace.

CAROLINE LEES

IN BRIEF

Germans warn football thugs

GERMAN politicians vowed yesterday to clamp down on football hooliganism in the wake of the atrocities committed in France, but fell short of introducing any new measures. As some of the thugs expelled from France were returning home, the Interior Minister, Manfred Kanther, promised them an unpleasant welcome. Meanwhile, police organisations, newspapers and TV stations in Germany have launched collections for the family of the French gendarme assaulted by German football fans in Lens on Sunday.

Frogmen try to float submarine

SOUTH KOREAN navy frogmen began attaching air bags to a sunken North Korean submarine yesterday, hoping to raise the captured craft and look inside for signs of life. The small submarine sank a mile off shore on Tuesday while a South Korean frigate was towing it to the big east-coast naval base of Daegu. Some defence ministry officials speculated that the crew might have escaped before their vessel was seized Monday, half a mile south of the North Korean border.

Police launch neo-Nazi raids

GERMAN police investigators launched raids early yesterday on more than a dozen flats, garages and warehouses belonging to suspected neo-Nazis in a search for weapons, police said. The authorities said the raids involved more than 300 police officials and took place in the southern state of Bavaria and the western state of Rhineland-Palatinate.

Viagra made prostitute kill

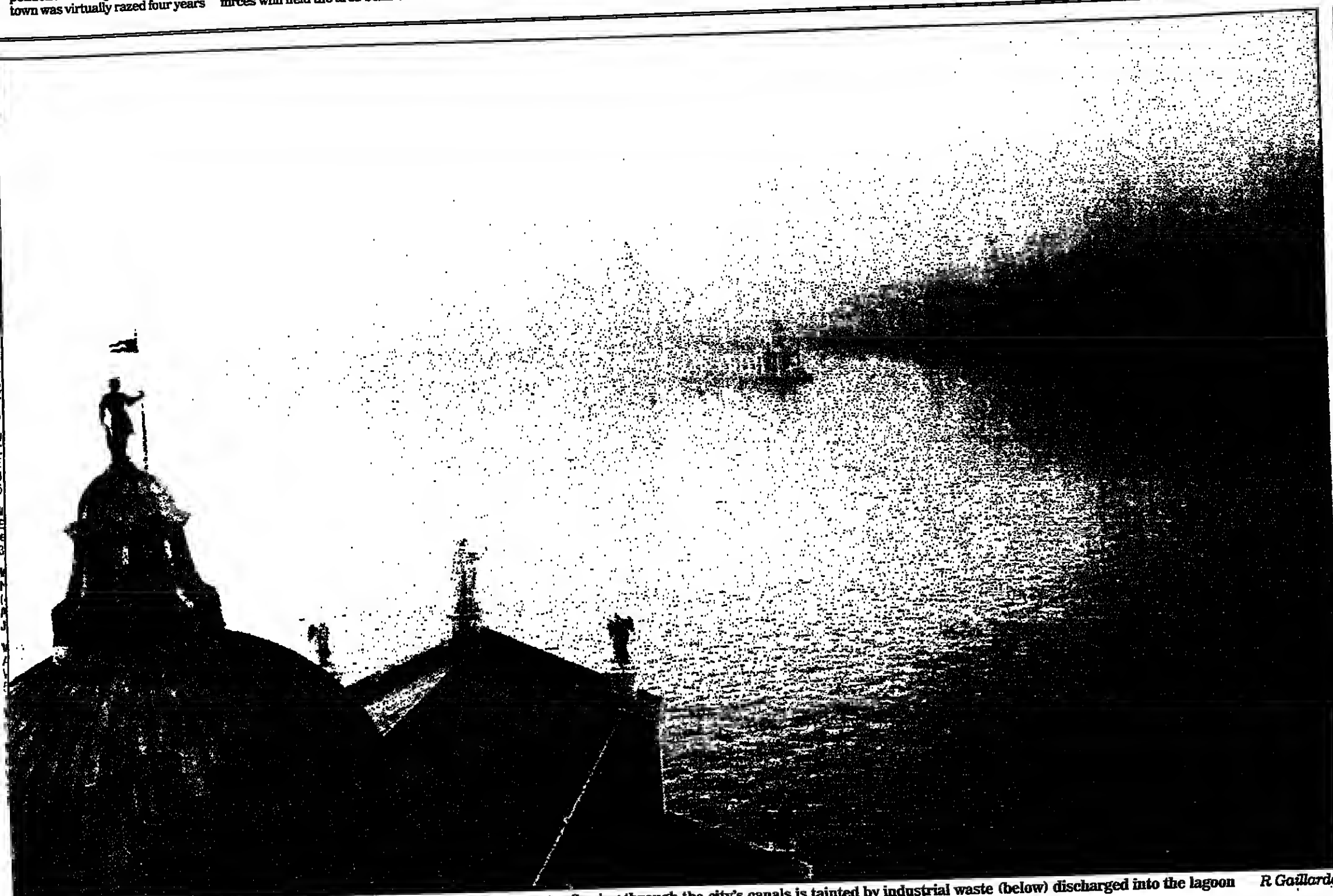
A PROSTITUTE in Taiwan confessed yesterday to killing a 70-year-old client, saying she could not bear his excessive sexual demands after he took two tablets of the impotence drug Viagra, police said. Hsieh Hui-ling, 31, was arrested at her home in Taipei after she confessed to stabbing Hsiao Ke-chun 13 times with a knife at a hotel two days earlier.

Swiss banks' \$600m offer

REPRESENTATIVES of Swiss banks and Holocaust victims met State Department mediators following a \$600m offer by the banks to settle allegations that they hoarded victims' funds after the Second World War. Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder and dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles, said the seven-hour meeting was "fruitless".

Mother, 96, in jail for murder

A COURT in central Japan yesterday sentenced a 96-year-old woman to three years in prison for the murder of her mentally handicapped son. Hsiao Kawai tried but failed to commit suicide by hanging after strangling her 63-year-old son on 2 January. The official said he believed the woman was the oldest person sentenced to a prison term in post-war Japan.



The picture-book image of Venice (above) does not tell the whole story. The water flowing through the city's canals is tainted by industrial waste (below) discharged into the lagoon

R Gaillardie

Venice starts to clean its polluted lagoon

LOOKING OUT on the mainland side as you fly into Venice airport, you might think you had taken the wrong plane. A forest of chimneys belches out smoke of every colour. Huge round tanks to store petrol and chemicals compete with shipyards to dominate this devastatingly ugly industrial smudge on the flat landscape.

There are canals flowing into the lagoon, but it is difficult to square these waterways with the glories of Venice. Grey-brown swirls sweep out of the narrow channels into the shallow, weed-filled water of the lagoon.

This is all good, clean waste water processed according to the dictates of national and EU laws, say the chemical giants producing PVC, polyurethane and solvents by the shores of the lagoon in Porto Marghera.

But their claims of environmental correctness have failed to convince Italy's new generation of determined young magistrates.

For the first time in its four-decade history, the heavy industry of Venice is being called to account for what the city's deputy mayor, Gianfranco Bettin, recently called "the holocaust in the lagoon".

Last week, a judge served a confiscation order on the waste water outlet SMI18, the biggest in Porto Marghera and the one into which the detritus of two of

BY ANNE HANLEY
in Venice

Europe's largest chemicals producers - Italy's Enichem and EVC, a subsidiary of ICI - flows. The order was lifted later, but only after judges said they were satisfied the industry had cleaned up its act.

In his confiscation request, the public prosecutor Luca Ramacci had included charts which showed that the water leaving SMI18 contained levels of carcinogenic chemicals and heavy metals up to three times over the legal limit.

Greenpeace's Venice expert Fabrizio Fabbri, says this only tells half the story. "The water pollution levels are appalling, but what lurks in the sediment is just as worrying," he said.

"There are still high levels of DDT, which they stopped producing years ago, and PCBs, and of course dioxin. All these substances break down very very slowly. They'll be there for tens, if not hundreds of years."

The Venice health authority, in a recent report, denied that any of these potentially fatal chemicals had entered the food chain. It saw no reason to upset the flourishing seafood industry in the lagoon with what they call unnecessary scare-mongering.

"If what they say is true, I'd call it the Miracle of St Mark," said a sceptical Mr Fabbri, referring to Venice's patron



saint. "If dioxin at these concentrations gets into the food chain everywhere else in the world, it's difficult to imagine why it shouldn't do so here."

The local health authority has also consistently denied that pollution in the lagoon presents any health hazard for people living and working there.

But in a trial which began in March, Enichem was ordered to pay 63 billion lire (£20m) in compensation to the families of 150 petrochemical workers in the area who have died of tumours.

"The incidence of cancer in the towns around the lagoon is well above the national average," said Greenpeace's Mr Fabbri.

Mr Ramacci says that the ostrich-like attitude of the local authorities to the problem of the water surrounding one of the

world's most beautiful cities is the result of "illicit connivance" between the people who are responsible for checking the state of the lagoon, and the directors of the companies in the Porto Marghera industrial complex.

The city's deputy mayor admits this, but says that such connivance is a thing of the past. He blamed it on the policies of the Socialists, who, until their political fortunes collapsed amid corruption scandals earlier this decade, were the principal political force in the Venice region.

Inquiries have shown that the chemical industry certainly lined politicians' pockets, and that this left them free to pollute the lagoon with impunity. "They were used to having carte blanche," Mr Bettin said.

He now sits on a committee with representatives from local authorities, industry, and unions which is studying each plant in Porto Marghera on a case-by-case basis, and halting any activity which appears to endanger the lagoon.

But there is still opposition to the attempted clean-up of the water. The chemical industry was furious about the confiscation order, saying the move would result not only in the closure of Porto Marghera plants but of well over 50 per cent of Italy's entire chemical industry, which relies on supplies from the Venice region.

The unions blocked roads and railway lines in protest, too, protesting that the jobs of about 8,000 people employed in Porto Marghera's chemical sector were at risk.

The environmentalists complain that piecemeal confiscation orders will achieve little.

"If Porto Marghera is to go out of business - and it will have to if the Venetian lagoon is to be saved - it will be due to the global decline in heavy industry, not to a confiscation order," Mr Fabbri said.

But Mr Ramacci sees light on the horizon after decades of neglect. "Industry has finally realised that power has been taken out of their hands, that there are people determined to put a stop to 30 years of destruction. The holocaust is over. Now we have got to mop up the damage."

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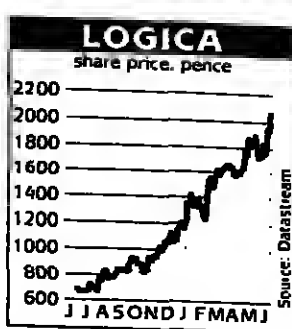
مكتبة من الأناط

BRIEFING

OPEC cuts, but is it enough?

MEMBERS OF OPEC, the oil cartel, yesterday agreed to cut production by almost 1.4 million barrels a day in an attempt to shore up the falling price of oil. But have the OPEC nations done enough to reverse the oil price decline? News analysis, page 18

Logica surges on bullish update



SHARES IN Logica, the computer services and software group, rose to a record high yesterday after a bullish trading update was issued by the company. Logica said it would generate strongly positive cash flow in the second half of its current financial year, "leaving the balance sheet in an excellent position to support further growth and acquisition activity in 1998/99".

It also said that it expected to report substantial revenue growth and continued margin improvement for the current financial year. Logica's shares closed up 105p, or 5.36 per cent, at 2,062.5p.

Caspian Securities to close

CASPIAN SECURITIES, the specialist emerging markets investment bank set up by Christopher Heath, is to cease trading.

The company, which has been beset by difficulties almost since its inception, said it was selling its "productive line businesses" and closing down its unprofitable units.

Caspian was set up in 1995 by Mr Heath, founder of Barings Securities, and Richard Greer to take advantage of investor interest in the emerging markets. But the bank has been beset by difficulties almost since its inception, and last month Mr Heath was reportedly on the brink of resigning.

Sources said the bank had been hit by the turmoil in Asian financial markets as well as by vigorous competition from other firms operating in the emerging markets sector. Most of the bank's 330 employees are expected to lose their jobs.

AT&T's \$48bn cable deal is a one-stop-shop revolution

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

AT&T, THE largest telecommunications operator in the US, said yesterday that it would buy TCI, the largest cable operator. The deal, worth \$48bn (£29bn), heralds a massive transformation in telecommunications.

It means that AT&T, the main company spun off from the old Bell telephone monopoly, will be able to go back into local phone services. Combined with the consolidation of the local phone companies, it is part of a second revolution after the break-up of Ma Bell.

AT&T said it will buy Telecommunications Inc (TCI) in a stock swap valued at \$31.8bn. It

will also take on \$11bn of TCI's debt and buy back stock from TCI for an estimated \$5.5bn.

The keystone of the deal is that the two companies will combine AT&T's long-distance, wireless and Internet services with TCI's cable, telecommunications and Internet businesses into a company to be called AT&T Consumer Services, providing a one-stop, one-cable link for all services to consumers.

AT&T, the main long-distance phone operator in the US, was formed as a result of the

divestment of Bell after a ruling by a US judge in 1982.

The latest deal satisfies a key strategic requirement for the company, which is under siege in its core market of long-distance telecommunications. Though it has a 60 per cent market share, the spin-off Baby Bells could soon knock a hole in that: the 1996 Telecommunications Act allowed them to enter the long-distance market while also opening the local market to competition.

Since the break-up of Bell, AT&T has not owned any local phone lines: though it has a vast infrastructure for long-distance and international calls, it lacks

the "last mile" from the exchange to the consumer's house or office.

Rebuilding a network would prove hugely costly. AT&T tried to get back into the business by leasing lines off the local Baby Bells, but this strategy was not cost-effective and was ended by Michael Armstrong when he took over as chairman and chief executive last year.

TCI already has a local infrastructure wired into homes. When the merger is complete, AT&T Consumer Services' wholly-owned and affiliated cable systems will pass \$3 million homes, a third of the US. The deal will require sub-

stantial investment in TCI's existing cable systems, which will have to be overhauled to allow two-way traffic.

"Today we are beginning to answer a big part of the question about how we will provide local service to US consumers," Mr Armstrong said yesterday. The new company "will bring to peoples' homes the first fully integrated package of communications, electronic commerce, and video entertainment services," he said.

One of the key aims of the new company will be to tap into the rapidly-growing Internet market more efficiently. AT&T already has its own AT&T

WorldNet Services and TCI has a stake in @Home Network with Cox Communications and Comcast. Internet connection is usually by local call.

The deal will also package TCI's Liberty Media Group, its programming arm, with TCI Ventures group, its technology investment unit. TCI has stakes in some of America's most popular cable networks, including Discovery, Black Entertainment television, Fox/Liberty Networks, QVC and regional sports channels. TCI Ventures includes stakes in the Sprint PCS cellular network, TCI International and the United Video Satellite Group.

Psion makes mobile phone pact

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

PSION, THE handheld computer maker, yesterday joined forces with the world's top three mobile phone manufacturers to challenge Microsoft in the fast-growing market for mobile computing.

Psion has injected its software arm into a venture with Ericsson and Nokia, the Scandinavian mobile phone suppliers. Motorola, the US manufacturer, will also take a stake after joining in the negotiations at the last minute.

The venture, to be called Symbian, will attempt to make Psion's operating software into the industry standard for use in mobile phones.

David Potter, Psion's chairman, said the number of mobile phone subscribers was expected to triple to 600 million by 2002. In addition, there will be increasing demand for "smart phones" which can connect to the Internet, send and receive e-mail, or handle on-line banking and shopping. Those devices would eventually dwarf the current market for desktop



Johan Silberg, president Ericsson; David Potter, chairman Psion and Symbian; Pekka Ala Pietila, president Nokia; and David M. Brown, chairman Motorola, at the launch of their joint venture

personal computers. Mr Potter said the deal would place Psion's software at the heart of that market. Symbian would license the software to other manufacturers and help them develop new products, thereby turning the EPOC32 software - which is currently only used in Psion's Series 5 handheld computer - into an effective industry standard.

The deal was welcomed by analysts as a brave move for Psion, which had been struggling to maintain its position in the palm-top computer market in the face of an onslaught

from cheaper models running Microsoft's stripped-down Windows CE operating software.

Although Psion had been attempting to license its software to other users, it had previously only announced one licence, the Dutch electronics group Philips. Observers also worried that it was unable to fund the development work needed to convert EPOC32 to other applications.

Analysts said the deal gave Psion's software huge credibility and placed the company at the heart of the developments in mobile computing.

It also allowed Psion to share some of the heavy R&D costs associated with its software arm. Nokia and Ericsson will inject £40m into the joint venture while paying Psion £20.5m. Although the terms of Motorola's involvement had not yet been calculated, the three mobile phone companies are expected to have 23 per cent each of the joint venture while Psion will have 31 per cent. The funds should cover the losses until licensing revenues begin to flow in a few years.

Colly Myers, the Psion chief

executive who is taking over as chief executive of Symbian, said the company would charge \$10 (£6) for every software licence for a handheld computer and \$5 (£3) for every smartphone. The charges would apply equally to all the shareholders.

Symbian has already spoken to other potential licensees and is about to start a roadshow to sell the operating software to other operators.

Executives did not rule out floating the venture on the stock market once it was up and running.

Treasury puts last-minute hold on BNFL's US deal

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

HOWEVER, these relate in the main to steam generation contracts Westinghouse entered into in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and not to nuclear reprocessing and clean-up liabilities.

BNFL and its partner Morrison Knudsen are proposing to pay \$265m (£160m) to take over Westinghouse's nuclear interests and assume a further \$700m to \$800m in liabilities. BNFL would have a 40 per cent interest in the joint venture, but it would have management control and shoulder the lion's share of the liabilities.

If the deal is approved it would catapult BNFL into the leading position in the global nuclear industry. BNFL, which owns the Sellafield nuclear waste reprocessing plant in

Cumbria, has already won \$2.5bn worth of business in the United States through its BNFL Inc subsidiary to clean up former US weapons research sites in Washington state, Colorado, Tennessee and South Carolina.

But some UK government ministers are said to be concerned that it could prove the forerunner to the privatisation of BNFL. The state-owned group made pre-tax profits of £216m in 1997 on turnover of £1.26bn and paid £46m in dividends to the Exchequer.

BNFL was formerly outside the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement. It was brought back within the PSBR four years ago, since when it has lobbied unsuccessfully to be removed from the public finances and given greater commercial freedom.

Kirkham son buys back into DFS

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

THE SON OF Sir Graham Kirkham, the founder and chief executive of DFS Furniture group, yesterday bought back £10m shares in the company at a fraction of the price at which the family sold most of its stake two years ago.

Michael Kirkham, who works for a charity in Ireland, acquired 5 million shares in DFS, taking his total shareholding to 6 per cent. Though the price of the transaction was not disclosed, DFS shares closed 1.5p lower at 197.5p yesterday. This compares to the 550p a share price at which he and his sister sold most of their stake in October 1996.

The reason given for that sale was that the Kirkham children had too much of the net worth tied up in DFS shares given to them by their father. However, Sir Graham then

seemed to feel they should have hung on to them. "I would say that there is no better place for their money than DFS," he said.

Since then the shares have plunged following two profits warnings as the company has struggled against higher interest rates and weakening consumer demand.

No reason was given for the change of heart by Sir Graham's son yesterday, although a company spokesman indicated it came because the shares had fallen so far as to become good value. "The shares are now below the issue price when the company was floated in 1994 and the company feels the current sales position is a blip rather than a trend."

Lord Simpson said the immediate aim was to grow GEC's telecoms interests through a series of acquisitions and partnerships. GPT, which specialises in public network systems, smart technology payphones and systems integration, made profits in the year to 31 March 1997 of £172m on sales of £1.17bn.

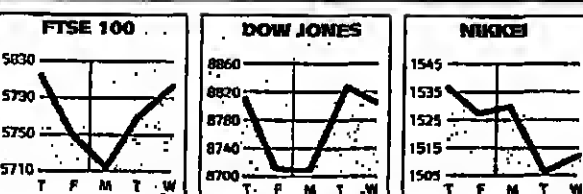
GPT will be integrated with GEC's existing wholly-owned telecoms business, Marconi Spa, to form a new company, Marconi Communications, which will have total sales of £1.5bn. Lord Simpson said it would concentrate on growth areas of the market such as data transmission and intelligent networks. There will also be synergies with the mainstay of the group, the defence electronics business GEC Marconi.

The City greeted the deal positively, marking GEC's shares up 5.5p to 483p. They have risen by 17 per cent since the wave of deal-making began three months ago.

Lord Simpson said GEC was still interested in making further defence acquisitions in the US.

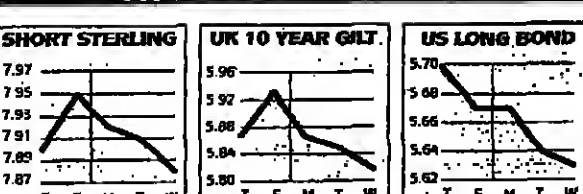
Outlook, page 19

STOCK MARKETS



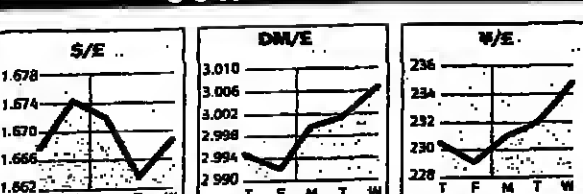
Index	Close	Change	52 wk High	52 wk Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5804.90	32.90	6150.50	4382.80	3.95
FTSE 250	5506.40	-4.00	5970.00	4384.20	3.19
FTSE 350	2801.40	12.60	3440.10	2141.80	3.81
FTSE All Share	2734.04	10.65	3440.10	2141.80	3.77
FTSE SmallCap	2611.50	-13.30	2793.80	2182.10	3.14
FTSE Fledgling	1427.40	-11.70	1517.10	1235.20	3.19
FTSE AIM	1091.00	-7.30	1146.50	869.90	1.15
FTSE EBOC 100	1025.52	4.55	1045.00	871.32	1.62
Dow Jones	8008.26	-24.16	8261.91	6971.32	1.01
Nikkei	15123.18	68.58	16091.79	14488.21	1.01
Hong Kong	8296.77	77.10	8682.31	7391.68	4.90
Dax	5779.91	61.20	5787.70	3487.24	2.84

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.81	0.95	8.00	0.69	5.81	-1.31	5.42	-1.74
US	5.69	-0.09	5.81	-0.26	5.43	-0.97	5.63	-1.06
Japan	0.57	-0.05	0.60	-0.23	1.50	-1.08	2.02	-1.06
Germany	3.56	0.44	3.85	0.62	4.75	-0.96	5.33	-1.16

CURRENCIES



Index	at Spot	Change	Yr Age
Dollar	1.6683	+0.006	1.6639
D-Mark	3.0052	+0.002	2.9737
Yen	234.74	+0.12	191.77
E index	106.70	+0.00	101.60
Index	at Spot	Change	Yr Age
Sterling	0.5994	-0.18p	0.6810
D-Mark	1.8020	-0.26p	1.7266
Yen	140.70	+0.54	114.82
\$ Index	112.20	+0.00	102.60

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	at Spot	Change	Yr Age
Brent Oil (\$)	12.50	-0.27	17.68
Gold (\$)	293.25	-1.60	337.95
Silver (\$)	5.34	-0.03	4.80
Index	at Spot	Change	Yr Age
GDP	114.80	3.00	111.66
RPI	163.50	4.20	156.91
Base Rates	7.50	6.50	

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SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.6450	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.45
Austria (schillings)	20.48	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2844
Belgium (francs)	60.20	New Zealand (\$)	3.0986
Canada (\$)	2.3905	Norway (krone)	12.35
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8509	Portugal (escudos)	296.71
Denmark (krone)	11.17	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0715
Finland (markka)	9.9125	Singapore (\$)	2.6331
France (francs)	9.7592	Spain (pesetas)	246.76
Germany (marks)	2.9237	South Africa (rand)	8.8132
Greece (drachma)	489.70	Sweden (krone)	12.90
Hong Kong (\$)	1.1558	Switzerland (francs)	2.4439
Ireland (pounds)	65.38	Thailand (bahts)	61.87
India (rupees)	5.6373	Turkey (liras)	423590
Israel (shekels)	2.883	USA (\$)	1.6277
Italy (lira)	229.30		
Japan (yen)	6.2558		
Malaysia (ringgits)	0.6332		
Malta (lira)			

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

THE MARKET dialled into telecom and related shares following the AT&T takeover of US CABLE COMPANY Telecommunications. The evidence of further telecoms consolidation helped lift Orange 40.5p to 645.5p and Cable & Wireless 32p to 690p. BT gained 17p to 758p.

Computer shares jumped on the back of Psion's proposed super-phone and oils strengthened on reports of OPEC production cuts. Footsie ended 32.9 points up at 5,804.9.

NEW YORK

US STOCKS turned positive in early afternoon trading yesterday with blue chips finally erasing morning losses as burgeoning strength in technology stocks wiped out weakness in AT&T.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 7 points to 8835, trailing the broader Standard & Poor's 500 Index, which gained nearly 3 points to 1222.36. The Nasdaq Composite, a barometer of technology stocks, rose an impressive 20 points, over one per cent.

TOKYO

THE JAPANESE stock market rose yesterday as a rally by US computer-related shares and a cheaper yen spurred buying of electronics companies and other exporters.

The Nikkei 225 benchmark index climbed 68.58 points to 15,123.18. The Topix index gained 5.51 points to 1,180.53.

GERMANY

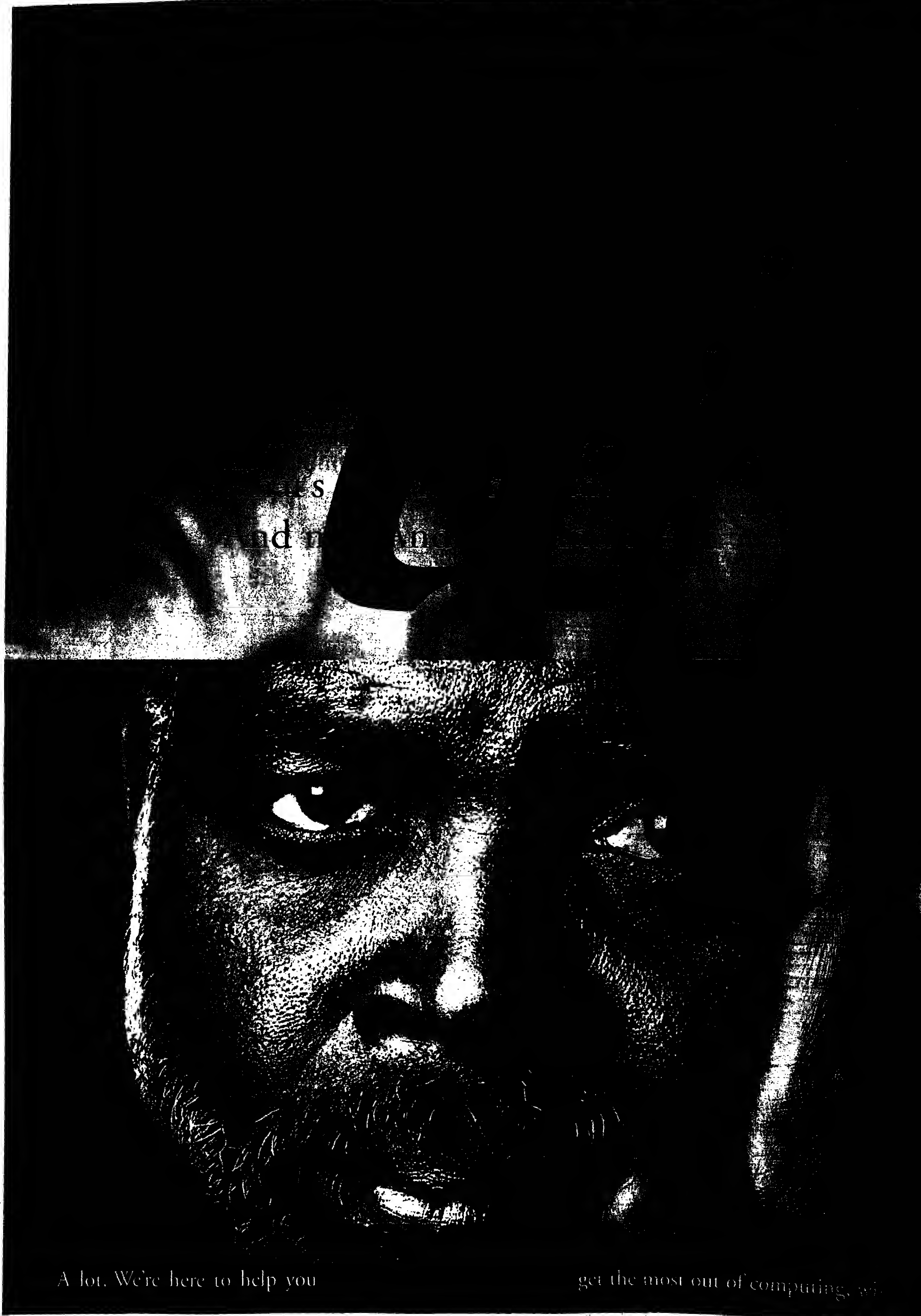
GERMAN SHARES rose yesterday, led by Daimler-Benz on expectations that the country's largest industrial corporation will benefit after walkouts at rival General Motors forced it to shut plants.

The DAX Index of 30 companies rose 37.60 points to 5,785.90, 26 points below its peak reached on 18 June.

ITALY

ITALIAN STOCKS slipped, with gas and oil company Eni among the biggest decliners, as investors remained unconvinced that voluntary cuts in oil production agreed yesterday by OPEC will be enough to shore up prices.

The all-share Mibtel Index lost 187 points, or 0.83 per cent, to 22,430. The Mib30 Index of most traded shares fell 1.01 per cent. Eni, which accounts for about 11 per cent of the Mibtel, shed 184 lire to 11,386 lire, slicing about 40 points off the benchmark index.



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Opec acts to stop slide in oil price

News Analysis: The oil cartel has agreed a further cut in production. But will members cheat on the deal?

BY LEA PATERSON

OPEC, the oil cartel, yesterday agreed to cut production by almost 1.4 million barrels a day, slightly more than market expectations, in an attempt to shore up the falling price of oil.

The reduction in oil output - which comes on top of the 1.3 million barrels per day reduction agreed just a few months ago - was welcomed by a market which has seen oil prices almost halve since the autumn.

But although traders seem united about the positive impact of the cuts in the oil price in the short term, many harbour doubts about their longer-term effectiveness.

One of the key reasons for the market scepticism is Opec's perennial problem of ensuring that members actually deliver on their promises.

Although it is collectively in the interests of Opec's members to cut back on production and so boost the oil price, each individual member has strong incentives to "cheat" on the agreement and produce more than the agreed quota.

The markets have watched Opec members fail to keep to agreed quotas time and time again, and not surprisingly, are far from convinced that Opec will come up with the goods.

"The numbers are impressive but can compliance control it?" said Peter Gignoux of Salomon Smith Barney.

Tony Machacek, oil futures broker at Credit Lyonnais

Rouse, said: "If they are honest, genuine cuts, then this is enough to hold the market for a significant spell."

However, Mr Machacek pointed out that provisional estimates indicated that Opec members had failed to keep to the quotas agreed only last March, when the organisation said it would cut production by 1.245 million barrels per day.

Recent estimates suggest that Opec has in fact only cut production by 900,000 barrels per day, a fact that has done little for recent market sentiment.

The continuing crisis in Asia is another important factor in the equation. Analysts attribute much of the recent decline in the oil price to a fall-off in Asian demand.

Mr Machacek said: "A lot depends on the Far Eastern markets. They've been the real killer since the last quarter of last year."

"Assuming there is no substantial upturn in the Far East, a figure of \$15 a barrel would probably be the top end



Rilwanu Lukman, Opec's secretary general, talks to reporters outside the Vienna hotel where oil ministers agreed the 1.4 million barrels a day cut yesterday. Reuters

in six months time. I'd say a range of \$13 to \$15 looks on the cards."

Oil was trading at around \$14 a barrel in London yesterday, and traders said the price had firmed by \$1-\$1.50 since rumours of significant Opec cuts began to sweep the markets a few days ago.

Last week, oil sank to a 12-year low of \$11.41 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, around half the price of a barrel of oil last autumn.

The Opec countries, whose economies are heavily reliant on oil revenue, have been doing their best to convince

the market that, this time round, the cuts are genuine.

Analysts say that the very fact that the Opec countries are willing to reverse last year's decision to relax quota controls shows that there is a genuine desire to restrict output and support the oil price.

An Opec decision in Jakarta last year - taken just as the Asian crisis was beginning to make itself felt - raised cartel output limits by 10 per cent.

"This [yesterday's] agreement shows they have admitted making a serious mistake in Jakarta," said Leo Drollas of London's Centre for Global Energy Studies.

Insiders also see as significant the agreement by Saudi Arabia, the dominant Opec producer, to cut output to just above the psychologically important 8 million barrels a day level. Yesterday, Saudi Arabia agreed to cut production to 8.023 million barrels a day, a sharp reduction from the 8.76 million barrels quota that it secured at last year's Jakarta conference.

Of all the Opec nations,

Saudi Arabia and Venezuela have agreed to the most substantial cuts in the two rounds of quota agreements made so far this year.

According to yesterday's agreement, Saudi will cut production by another 425,000 barrels a day on top of the 300,000-barrel cut agreed earlier this year.

Venezuela is to cut another 325,000 barrels a day from output, on top of the 200,000-barrel reduction already agreed.

Iran said it would make cuts of 190,000 barrels a day in addition to the cuts of 140,000 barrels made earlier this year.

Worrying for the market, the first cracks in the recent show of unity by the Opec nations have already appeared. Concern has been circulating about polioleaking by Iran, one of Opec's most important producers. Iran recently announced hefty oil output figures, and the cynics believe that Iran used the announcement as a bargaining chip to try to minimise the supply sacrifices agreed to yesterday.

Yen falls amid doubts on reform

BY LEA PATERSON

DOUBTS OVER Japan's commitment to structural reform sent the yen falling yet again yesterday. The renewed slide in the value of the Japanese currency coincided with news that Sanyo Securities, the brokerage, planned to cease trading and abandon its restructuring efforts.

Sanyo Securities, which filed for bankruptcy protection last autumn, was one of the last victims of the financial crisis in Japan. Lawrence Summers, deputy US Treasury Secretary, underscored the importance of meaningful financial reform in Japan, telling a Senate hearing it was critical that Japan act decisively to remedy the difficulties in its banking system. "The situation in Japan is a source of very considerable concern," he said.

"This is a pivotal moment for Asia and the global economy. Weakness in Japan is now having a clear impact on the other troubled economies of Asia," Mr Summers said.

The dollar rose from 139.21 yen overnight to 141.23 yen in early trade yesterday. Later in the day, however, the dollar fell back from earlier highs on fears of renewed central bank intervention.

Andrew Davies, analyst at Monument Derivatives, said: "There's a bit of a stand-off going on. Currency market players are gently pushing the yen downwards to see where the pressure points are. The yen dipped down below 141 after reports that the Bank of Japan was checking currency rates in the market."

Last week, it emerged that the Bank of Japan and the US Fed had sold dollars and bought yen in an attempt to prop up the troubled Japanese currency.

Analysts said concerns about Japan's commitment to reform were the key reason behind renewed weakness in the yen. Mr Davies said: "There is a lot of uncertainty about the precise measures that Japan is going to produce. The markets want to be convinced that the measures will actually sort out the bad loans problem. There is nervousness at the moment because the market has only a general idea about what the 'bridge bank' is going to do."

The Japanese government

said yesterday it was racing to set up a "bridge bank" to provide loans to cash-strapped companies unable to obtain credit from the country's struggling private banks.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, said: "We will create a bridge bank that would have the ability to screen borrowers to distinguish healthy borrowers from unhealthy ones, and to extend new loans."

Details of the banking reforms remain vague, but the proposal is expected to be finalised in early July.

Renewed doubts about Japanese commitment to change came as Sanyo Securities, an ailing medium-size Japanese brokerage, said it had abandoned restructuring efforts and planned to cease trading.

However, the securities company said negotiations about a possible buyout would continue with a foreign financial company that Sanyo refused to name.

Sanyo applied for court protection from creditors last November as it sought to reorganise its operations under a corporation rehabilitation law.

GUS to test home delivery with Argos

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

GREAT UNIVERSAL Stores is to start a home delivery trial at Argos next month, just three months after acquiring the catalogue retailer in a hotly-contested £1.9bn takeover bid.

The trial will take place in the north-west of England. It will allow customers to order by phone and pay £2.95 for delivery to the home, or collect the order from the store for free.

Lord Wolfson, chairman of GUS, said there were no plans to introduce GUS's clothing ranges to the Argos catalogue. However, certain GUS catalogues, such as its Sports Direct brochure, might be made available to Argos customers. The company will start testing GUS's home furnishings offers at Argos in September.

The plans were revealed as GUS announced flat full-year profits of £555m, hit by a profit collapse at Burberry.

Profits from the luxury goods brand fell from £62m to £24.9m due to the effects of the Asian financial crisis and the strong pound.

Lord Wolfson said: "Burberry became over-reliant on Asia. We also didn't have the right design and merchandise staff. It has been very unhappy experience."

He said Burberry had stocked too many lines, with more than a million options compared to 72,000 in one of its catalogues. "In raincoats we had eight colours with a choice

of eight different linings and in too many sizes." He added that the company had been forced to write off large quantities of stock as the colours were unfashionable. "Everybody knows Burberry but we have got to get the product up to expectations."

He said that having the design centre in Hackney in London was a mistake as it was too far from the city's design centre in the West End.

GUS said reduced demand had forced Burberry to write down surplus stock by £12m and close three UK manufacturing units in April and May, with the loss of 400 jobs.

GUS shares fell 33p to 807p as analysts cut their profit forecasts from £585m to £565m for the current year.

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Wage inflation 'still accelerating'

BY LEA PATERSON

THE UK labour market is tightening and the pace of wage inflation picking up, according to a survey released yesterday.

A jobs report published by NTC Research and the Federation of Recruitment and Employment Services found that wages for permanent and temporary staff grew at a faster rate in May than in April.

The report noted there had been increases in demand for all types of worker. But, it said: "The supply of suitable staff to fill vacancies further diminished [so] both average salaries for permanent staff and temporary and contract pay rates continued to rise strongly."

Strongest demand was for information technology staff, although demand for unskilled workers also rose.

In recent months the rate of wages growth has been one of the Bank of England's primary concerns. Both the Bank and the Government have repeatedly urged wage restraint, particularly in the private sector.

The most recent official figures showed that average earnings rose by 5.2 per cent in the year to March, significantly above the 4.5 per cent "danger level" generally thought of as

incompatible with the Bank's inflation target.

The Bank cited strong earnings growth as one of the main factors behind its recent decision to increase interest rates by a quarter-point to 7.5 per cent. Continuing concern about wage inflation may help tip the balance in favour of another rate rise at the beginning of next month, according to some economists.

note on the UK economy. The quote comes from a speech Mr Budd gave to the Institute of Economic Affairs earlier this month. "Most of the comment on our (the MPC's) actions comes from the economic correspondents of the press and television and from that superb body of men and women, the City commentators."

Mr Budd went on: "The behaviour, in general, of the latter group has sometimes puzzled me. I have always assumed that, in relation to the actions of the Government and the Bank of England, their task is to predict what they are going to do."

The MPC guru continues: "I have two theories. The first is that their activities add glory and weight to the institutions for which they work... The second is... it is always difficult to admit you have made a mistake so naturally they don't say that they are wrong, they say that the MPC was wrong."

This is all good, pungent stuff. But hang on a minute. Is this the same Alan Budd that used to be former chief economist of the Barclays Bank group and, as such, one of the biggest "City commentators" of them all?

FIRSTPLUS, an American mortgage lender, has just established a £10m head office in Cardiff to kick-start its drive into Europe.

Traditional boozers turn into a Wizard success

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS
BY JOHN WILLCOCK



THE MAN who wrote a best seller titled *The Death of the English Pub* is now set to make a fortune - from his booming English pub business.

Christopher Hutt is taken aback to be reminded of his book, which he wrote when he was national chairman for the Campaign for Real Ale (Cmara).

"It's a long time ago - the book was published in 1973," he says. "It was a diatribe against the policies the national brewers were pursuing at the time."

Having just opened the 10th pub in his Wizard Inns chain, and with a total of 30 planned by the end of the year, Mr Hutt is in danger of becoming a "national pub owner" himself.

Wizard is backed by Nomura International and the Royal Bank of Scotland to the tune of £32m. In January it bought 37 pubs from Phoenix Inns in a deal worth £11m. Mr Hutt says: "We opened our first pub in February. We aim to give the 'local' back to the locals."

Not for him the razzmatazz of themed pubs. "Most of our competitors are concentrating on a lemming-rush to branded and themed outlets. We prefer to work with well-located local pubs which have fallen on hard times and which we can breathe a bit of life back into."

Wizard is just the latest in a long line of boozers ventures for Mr Hutt. He's been involved in three pub companies that he's

subsequently sold. He started with Midsummer Inns in the 1970s, then there was Unicorn Inns which he sold to Morland in 1985 for £12.3m, and after that he sold two pubs to Surrey Free Inns, before setting up Wizard.

Mr Hutt has a chilling warning for the themed pubs. "None of them have been tested through a recession. I wonder how many of them will survive the next one."

Worrying times, indeed. Make mine a pint.

ALAN BUDD, member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), has added his voice to the growing row between the City and the MPC over interest-rate policy.

Geoffrey Dicks, economist at Greenwich NatWest, quotes Mr Budd in Greenwich's latest

note on the UK economy. The quote comes from a speech

Simpson rolls out his GEC strategy

IN THE dim distant past, a company called Plessey became famous for a piece of cutting-edge technology called System X. This was the kit that BT used to modernise its network, ripping out old analogue exchanges and replacing them with shiny new digital ones. With a giant captive customer in the bag, Plessey thrived on the proceeds and used them to expand overseas.

Throughout it all, Plessey was persistently stalked by GEC's Arnold Weinstock. Today's consolidating industrialists have got nothing on this original master of the art. In the end the old fox proved a superior tactician to Plessey's Sir John Clark.

He eventually achieved the rationalisation of UK electronics he sought by pairing up with Siemens of Germany and swallowing up Plessey, System X and all.

The telecoms business was renamed GPT and was carved up 60 per cent to Lord Weinstock and 40 per cent to the Germans. Yesterday his successor at GEC, Lord Simpson, wrote the final page of this cor-



OUTLOOK

porate vignette by buying out Siemens' stake for £700m.

This is not the first deal hatched by Lord Simpson since he got into gear at GEC and it will not be the last. He has just completed the £800m acquisition of the US defence electronics business Tracor and is about to complete the joint venture between Marconi and Alenia of Italy. Stand by now for further defence electronics acquisitions State-side and a string of bolt-on deals involving telecoms. GPT is not about to invent another System X

- they only come along once in a generation - but it will increase its presence in growth areas of the telecoms market like data transmission and intelligent networks.

After a cautious start the City seems to be warming to the Simpson story and the shares have comfortably outperformed the index since the spring.

Not only does this begin to make Lord Simpson's £10m pay package attainable, it also bolsters GEC's firepower if and when he goes for the big one. The City continues to anticipate a GEC-British Aerospace merger and who is to say it will be disappointed?

Perils of the AT&T link-up

THE 1996 telecommunications act in the US was one of those splendidly ill-conceived pieces of legislation which has had the exact opposite effect to the one intended. The idea was to usher in a new era of competition in US telecoms by

allowing long distance operators to enter the local market, for years the exclusive preserve of the Regional Bell Operating Companies (RBOCs), and visa versa. Instead it has brought on an unprecedented round of consolidation in the industry, with long distance operators merging with local ones, RBOCs merging with each other, and all manner of other alternative get-togethers. The legislators surely cannot have envisaged that they would be opening the doors to such mega-mergers as MCI and WorldCom when they drafted the bill. The upshot is that the cause of competition doesn't seem to have been advanced one jot.

However, the merger announced yesterday between the giant AT&T and the cable operator Telecommunications Inc (TCI) might be the first such consolidation to break the mould. The central justification for the deal, other than the usual opportunity for a vicious round of cost-cutting, is so that AT&T can use TCI's cable TV and internet access business as a platform for its assault

on the US local telecoms market.

Whether this happens in practice is anyone's guess. Britain is about the only country in the world where there is serious competition at a local level in fixed line telecommunications. Most forecasters believe that the real competition to the entrenched local monopolies that rule the roost elsewhere is much more likely to come from mobile telephony than an alternative wired network. All the same, AT&T's rhetoric at least sounds credible, and certainly it should be enough to ensure the merger gets an easy ride through the regulators.

What the deal means for Britain is even less clear. Possibly it will put the kibosh on the mooted international link up between BT and AT&T altogether. Certainly it seems likely to delay it for a while. Alternatively it could mean that Telewest, one of the very few UK telecom companies not to have participated in the spectacular bull market in telecom stocks of the last year, finally comes under the hammer, and gets sucked into the separate consolidation

going on in our own cable TV industry. Whatever the corporate implications, one thing is certain; the consumer can look forward to less competition, not more.

Psion venture deserves success

SO MAYBE Psion does have a future after all. Until yesterday, the manufacturer of those dinky hand-held computers looked destined to go the same way as Apple, becoming a much-admired but obsolete player in an industry dominated by the mighty Microsoft. Everyone recognised that Psion's software was the best. But nobody else wanted to use it.

Yesterday's deal has changed all that. In one fell swoop Psion has tied the world's three largest mobile phone manufacturers into its software. When Ericsson or Nokia launches a phone next year that lets you check your bank balance or order some theatre tickets, it will be running Psion's software. For proof

of the potency of this combination, consider that Motorola was prepared to pay a hefty premium for getting involved at the last minute.

But how stable will this combination be? The mobile phone market is about as competitive as they come. Motorola, Nokia and the others spend most of their time desperately thinking of ways to get ahead of each other. How comfortable will they feel rubbing shoulders and sharing know-how in Symbian's boardroom? And will other manufacturers want to license software that is owned by their main competitors?

Nevertheless David Potter, Psion's chairman, deserves a round of applause. Having already built a world-leading technology company in a country which tends to let its best ideas get exploited abroad, he has now taken a bold move which gives his company a better than even chance of surviving the onslaught from the likes of Bill Gates. He deserves to succeed despite the unstable nature of the alliance he has just put in place.

Supercode is 'weak, bland and useless'

LEADING CORPORATE governance specialists have criticised the Hampel "supercode" on corporate governance, due to be published today, describing it as a weak, bland document that will fail to stop corporate abuses.

Anne Simpson, of Pire, the pensions and investment research group said: "It has a rather bland, bland-like quality. We feel the need for clarity and vigour is as great as it ever was. There are so many qualifications [in the code]."

It is understood that the final Hampel supercode which will incorporate the Cadbury and Greenbury codes, will be largely unchanged from the draft document which adopted a light touch and was seen in some quarters as a let-off for the business community. This is in spite of the Stock Exchange receiving over 150 submissions about the original document, many of which are thought to have been critical.

Pire has taken issue with several points, including the nomination of a lead non-executive director. It suggests it

By NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

would more valuable to insist on an independent non-executive chairman and for companies to list the biographies and business connections or non-executives so that investors can assess their independence more easily.

Smaller public companies will be able to flout the code as long as they detail in their annual reports where it does not comply with the code and why. The code will also be toothless. Though it will sit alongside the Stock Exchange's listing requirements, it will be voluntary and companies which do not comply will not be disciplined if they state their reasons.

However, the lenient attitude to smaller companies was welcomed by David Stevenson, corporate finance partner at Eversheds, the law firm. "It can be difficult for smaller companies to find the right kind of people for these non-executive roles. If they were pushed by the code it might lead to them appointing the wrong person."

IN BRIEF

BP faces £60m damages claim

BP IS facing a damages claim of at least \$100m (£60m) following a Court of Appeal ruling yesterday. The court rejected an appeal by BP Chemicals against an earlier judgment that it had infringed patents held by the German chemicals giant Hoechst for making iodide-free acetic acid. The hearing to determine the exact level of damages is due to begin in mid-September.

Centrica calls for reform legislation

CENTRICA, WHICH trades as British Gas, yesterday called for early legislation to underpin the opening of the domestic electricity market to competition. Giving evidence to MPs on the Trade and Industry Select Committee, the managing director of British Gas Trading, Mike Alexander, called for measures to reform the electricity pool, separate electricity supply from distribution and merge Ofgas and Ofwat. The call comes amid indications that there may not be room in the next session of parliament for the necessary legislation.

Acquisitions search boosts Eidos

SHARES IN Eidos soared 75p to 845p yesterday after the software company, which has built its success on the Tomb Raider and Championship Manager computer games, said that it was looking at acquisitions.

Jarvis Porter bids for Sonoco units

JARVIS PORTER Group said yesterday it was in talks with Sonoco of the United States to buy its Sonoco Harlands and Sonoco Machinery label printing operations in the UK, France and the US.

Deutsche Postbank set to link up

COMMERZBANK, Germany's third-largest bank, yesterday said it was in talks with Deutsche Postbank, a government-owned bank, on "closer co-operation" in a step that could give Commerzbank access to 10 million customers at the country's post offices.

EC set to clear telecoms merger

THE EUROPEAN Commission yesterday reached an agreement which will allow it to clear the \$37bn (£22bn) merger between WorldCom and MCI, the telecommunications giants. The EC also cleared the \$69bn merger between Citicorp and Travelers group.

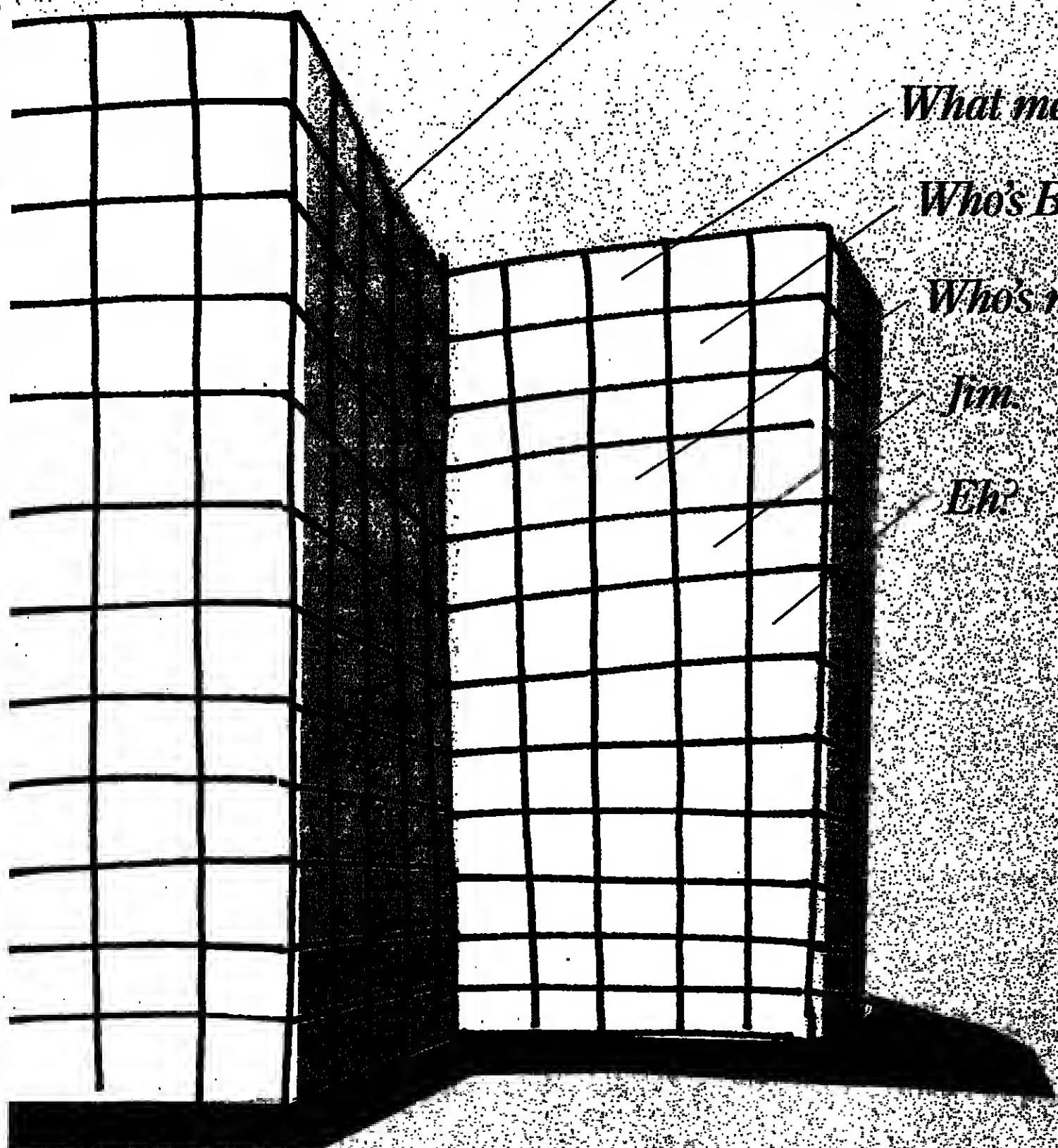
Strong profits rise at Galen

GALLEN HOLDINGS, the £530m pharmaceuticals group based in Northern Ireland, yesterday unveiled a 39 per cent rise in pre-tax profits before exceptional items to £7.5m, in line with expectations. Galen shares were suspended on Tuesday as it announced it was poised for a reverse takeover of Ferring Pharmaceuticals, a larger private group.

FSA proposes new fund type

THE FINANCIAL Services Authority may allow a new type of investment fund half-way between an investment trust and a unit trust. The city regulator yesterday floated proposals on "limited issue funds", which would be similar to unit trusts but would restrict the number of units that could be bought or sold at one time. Consultation will end on 31 July.

Have you read the agenda
for the all-staff meeting, Bob?



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EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

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SPORT

Wimbledon: Coach parts company with British No 1 after being angered by his attitude in build-up to Championships

Exit Pickard as Rusedski 'stops listening'

BY JOHN ROBERTS

A SPORTS coach once said that the world does not want to hear the birth pains, only to see the baby. Nevertheless, there will be a degree of public sadness about Tony Pickard's decision to part company with Greg Rusedski yesterday, not least because it severs the Canadian-born British No 1's link with a home-grown mentor.

They had worked together for nine months, since Rusedski marked the pinnacle of his accomplishments to date, as a finalist at the United States Open last September, by sacking his American coach, Brian Teacher.

During their 16 months together, Teacher helped broaden Rusedski's game beyond the fastest serve in the sport and the ability to follow up with crisp volleys. Suddenly, Rusedski had decent ground-strokes, particularly on the backhand, which had previously been about as effective as a broken wing.

Rusedski, who hired Teacher as a former top 10 player capable of elevating him to similar status, was on the point of rising to No 4 in the world when he decided to make a change. Rusedski emphasised that money was not the reason, saying that their agreement simply came to an end.

Pickard, semi-retired at his home in Nottingham, was enlisted because Rusedski believed that he would benefit from the motivational skills Britain's former Davis Cup captain employed to assist the supremely-gifted Swede, Stefan Edberg, to No 1 in the world, with six Grand Slam titles to his name, two of them won at Wimbledon.

Yesterday, the 64-year-old Pickard responded to Rusedski's decision to participate - compete is too strong a term - at Wimbledon in spite of injuring his left ankle when playing in the Stella Artois Championship at London's Queen's Club only 11 days earlier. "He stopped listening," Pickard said.

Rusedski had found he was unable to resume a first-round match delayed overnight by rain with his opponent, Mark Draper, an Australian qualifier, ranked No 238, who was about to serve to lead by two sets to one. His coach was not alone in ques-

tioning the wisdom of Rusedski's presence on Court No 1 on Tuesday evening, the ankle all but immobilised by a brace, affording him little more than a limping role in the world's most prestigious tennis tournament. But Pickard was also fuming about Rusedski's behaviour towards him since the injury occurred.

"Over the last few weeks there was a total breakdown in communication," Pickard said. "For two days I had no idea where he was. At this level, unless there's complete trust, it stops working. We have had trust, but over the last 10 or 12 days, it all seemed to go out of the window."

"I didn't believe he should have played. I know what his injuries are, but there were outside influences telling him that he was going to be

to par. Just do it do it." Ironically, that last sentence happens to be the direct opposite of the slogan of Nike, Rusedski's clothing sponsor.

"Tony feels that he doesn't want to work with me any more, and that's it. So the relationship is basically done. That's his choice. I had to go out there and play, and I don't regret it in the least. I think I made the right decision for myself."

"I had confidence in my physio, and I had confidence in my physical trainer and the people that were around me. If that's the way he [Pickard] feels, that's fine. But I don't think that's the most supportive way to support a person."

"Wimbledon only comes around once a year, it's the biggest tournament in the world, it's at home, it's the one the British public come to support and come to see myself, and Tim [Henman] and all the other British players do well."

"I would have been gutted if I hadn't have stepped on the court at least and given it a go. I mean, can you imagine sitting there for two weeks watching Wimbledon go by and not being to play? It's not a good feeling."

Rusedski said he would rest and continue to have treatment in the hope of making a

comeback when the American hard-court circuit resumes in Washington in a month's time. Asked whether he had any plans for a replacement coach, he said: "I'm not worried about it. The player always makes it. The coach can help, but it's the player at the end of the day."

Henman was able to provide news better suited to a mainly sunny day, advancing to the third round by defeating David Nainkin, a South African qualifier who performed way above a ranking of No 234. Some of Nainkin's passing shots alone were worthy of an airing on the Centre Court.

"It was a very tough match," Henman said. "There were times when he was playing great tennis, not the tennis that people normally play on the grass, but staying back, hitting his ground strokes really well and returning well."

Asked for his reaction to Pickard's decision, Henman said, "I'm a little bit surprised. When they started working with each other they seemed to have a good relationship."

YESTERDAY AT WIMBLEDON

- No 2 seed Rios falls in five sets to Clavet of Spain
- Sampras, Graf and Seles sail into the third round
- Smith keeps British flag flying with straight-sets win

fit to play. I didn't consider that he was. But the other thing that broke the camel's back was the fact that for two days I couldn't find him."

Rusedski has a personal trainer, Steve Green, and is being treated by Reza Daneshmand, an Iranian physiotherapist at the Chelsea Harbour Club, in London.

"I think the timing [of Pickard's decision] is a little bit suspect," Rusedski said. "Fair enough, he didn't like some of the decisions I made with my physiotherapy, and the people around me. But just because I got this injury, and it happens to be Wimbledon time, and I decide to give it a go, does not give a person a reason to make that choice. But I guess that just shows a person's true colours."

It was his trainer, Green, who convinced Rusedski to withdraw from the match yesterday. "Steve is a man of few words, shall we say, and if he says something, you're definitely going to listen," Rusedski said. "He just had a talk with me downstairs and said, 'Your movement wasn't up



Tim Henman stoops to conquer during yesterday's four-set win over South Africa's David Nainkin

Robert Hallam

Graf on awesome upward path Wilkinson feels at home again

BY GUY HODGSON

IT WAS difficult to know whether we were reading Wimbledon's order of play yesterday or a list of names from an agony aunt's post bag. Stefani Graf, Monica Seles, Jennifer Capriati: throw up a difficulty that you could possibly get in what ought to be the cosseted tennis life, and they have probably had it.

Tears have fallen like Capriati's ranking from all three in recent years, and if only Jana Novotna had been on court we would have had the full complement of the Blues Sisters. Yesterday it was a case of no woman, no cry, however, as the tearful trio kept back the moisture, safely negotiating matches.

Graf's most recent worry has been her health. On Monday she broke down in a press conference as she related that injury after injury had piled up on her so that she thought her playing days were over. Some crock. Yesterday the crowd was left wondering what might have been if only we had watched Fräulein Forehand at a good time. Against Henrieta Nagyova she was awesome.

In theory the world No. 23 ought to have fancied her chances against anyone who is coming back from a year away from the game but Graf is not anyone, and the convalescence is being conducted at a level that only the best can live with. The first set was not so much a mis-match as a massacre.

Nagyova, from Slovakia, looked confident in the knock-out - Graf's left knee is suspect after all, and it has been well documented that her game is rusty after her lay-off. It was only when the balls had to be hit over the net for real that the problems began.

First serve and, bang, the return was past Nagyova before she had time to blink. Graf was hitting the ball so early you could swear she was getting to them during the toss-up. The first service game was lost to love, the first set also to love in 20 minutes. Just nine points had been surrendered.

You can rarely keep that kind of form going, even if you are Steffi

Graf, and the second set was closer. The German's serve was not functioning like it can but even so a 6-0, 6-4 victory was clinched in 58 minutes. This time there was no overflow of water.

"I guess I was anxious to play and pretty nervous in the days before my first-round match," Graf said. "The emotions were going. I've

calmed down a little bit since then."

No interview with Graf is complete without a medical bulletin and she duly obliged. "I have no problem, not at all," she said. "It's been great the past few weeks that I've been able to practise the way I want to. Running side to side without any pain."

How long would it be before she is back to her best? "Let's say it will

take a couple of weeks," she said, a reply that would have earned a quizzical look from yesterday's beaten opponent.

Seles, the sixth seed, has been on an emotional roller-coaster too, since her father died just before the French Open. She harnessed her hurt then to reach the final and yesterday she safely cruised past France's Alexandra Fusai 6-1, 6-1.

Fusai won the first game of the match on her serve and then stood in the face of the hurricane as Seles thumped winner after winner past her. Such slaughter was supposed to have ended when the Romans got bored with Christians versus the lions.

The main women's casualty yesterday was Amanda Coetzer, who glories in various nicknames including the "little assassin" or the "mighty atom", all of which seem to overstate her prowess, as she has only a couple of Australian Open semi-finalists to her name at the age of 26.

The South African ninth seed certainly imploded yesterday. She won her first set against Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu, then the forcing ground-strokes started to come back at her with interest and she lost 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, who defeated Monica Seles in the French Open final two weeks ago, had a scare, but not the lingering sort that stopped Coetzer. The Spaniard lost the first set 7-5 to Romania's Catalina Cristea before she pulled rank and won the next two 6-2, 6-0.

There was no such alarm for Lindsay Davenport, the woman who is seeded second - although no one seems to have noticed, such has been the focus on Graf, Seles and Hingis. She beat Larissa Neiland 6-1, 7-5.

BY GUY HODGSON

ON THE day that Greg Rusedski limped out of Wimbledon it was back to an earlier age for Britain. Tim Henman won but so did Chris Wilkinson, a player who kept the home fires burning at the start of the Nineties.

Wilkinson defeated Mark Knowles of the Bahamas 7-5, 6-0, 6-1, which was a scoreline that looked unlikely when the 28-year-old from Southampton was 15-40 down on his serve in the first set. He held and then shot past his opponent to recall his three successive trips to the third round.

"That's my target again," he said. "I feel relaxed but it's a funny feeling. I've always done well at Wimbledon and to begin with I was thinking 'it's got to stop some time'. I was apprehensive at first but once I got in my stride I enjoyed it."

Which is not how Andrew Richardson would have described his day. It is a paradoxical thought that if he had played Ilie Nastase at almost any other sport yesterday but he would probably have won. Basketball, rugby union, no problem, what a shame then that they had to meet on a tennis court.

At 6ft 7in Richardson, who, surprisingly is from Peterborough hot from the leafy end of Jack's beanstalk, was 10 inches taller than his opponent but size is not everything as the score of 6-4, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 proved. In fact, it is probably a hindrance.

Richardson has a ferocious serve and a reach that rivals Concorde's wing-span but while it is like trying to get over the Empire State Build-

ing when you attempt a lob, it takes him some time to bring his racket down from the clouds and Arazzi wonderfully exploited that weakness.

The Moroccan is a wonderful mixture of enterprise and daring and his ability to produce shots that few other players can dream of never mind execute would give him a much better world ranking than 59 if modern rackets had not put most of the aces in the hands of six-footers.

Not so many that it prevented Richardson contemplating his future after yesterday's defeat. "I've reached the point where I don't have any belief," he said, while announcing he intends to take a rest from the sport. "When I play well it's more of a relief than enjoyment."

Richardson was also critical of the coaching at the national training centre at Bisham Abbey, saying: "I don't think it was good for me as a player or a person. I see boys there now and I know what they are going through." What is wrong? "If anyone from the Lawn Tennis Association comes to see me I'll tell them."

Richardson went quickly. Barry Cowan took the slow exit from the first round. The 23-year-old from Southport was on the verge of losing the third set against Germany's Hendrik Dreekman before the rain brought things to a halt on Tuesday evening but it was nearly 4pm yesterday before he finally succumbed.

Cowan restored parity by winning the fourth set 6-3 only to lose his second serve in the decider. Even so he saved three match points before going down 6-7, 7-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in 3hr 29min.



Steffi Graf in action during yesterday's victory over Henrieta Nagyova

Robert Hallam

Court circular

EDITED BY IAN TASKER

Ivanisevic's
football brain

IT SEEMS that everyone has an opinion about the England football team's performance in the World Cup, and the latest to air his opinion is the big-serving Croatian tennis player Goran Ivanisevic.

When asked about the teams Croatia might have to face next in the tournament, the football fanatic replied: "Now it's Argentina for us, and then I would like to see us play England."

Might this be because he'd like to see his country rise to the challenge of playing such an exciting, dynamic and talented team? Unfortunately not. The Croat's answer is far more cutting. "I would choose England because they are playing really badly."

And Ivanisevic is someone who knows his football. Last year he trained with Hajduk Split and at one time almost played for them, as a substitute in a derby match against Croatia Zagreb.

Launching into an analysis worthy of Alan Hansen, Ivanisevic explained: "How would I attack England? With the defence the way they are, it's not tough to attack them. There's a lot of holes so we can sneak our forwards in. If Suker and Boban play it will help Croatia's game in midfield. If we play Romania, the way they play does not suit our game."

Honeymooners who
are still courting

THE THOUGHT of planning a wedding is enough to make most people break out in a cold sweat. But imagine trying to organise such an event when your intended is a tennis coach with the Italian Tennis Federation and you're a pro tennis player who is on the road for more than 30 weeks a year.

The 14th seed in the women's draw at Wimbledon, Sandrine Testud of France, had done exactly that, however. Testud and husband Vittorio Magnelli had planned to tie the knot last year but arrangements had to be postponed. "The date was hard to find," Testud said. "I didn't want to get married in the winter so it had to be between the French Open and Wimbledon."

Everything fell into place for the couple on June 13th this month in Testud's home town of Lyons. She confesses to not having hit a ball for a few days prior to the ceremony.

Instead of the usual honeymoon period, Testud rushed off to a grass-court tournament in the Netherlands to prepare for Wimbledon. But was a stint in rainy Rosmalen an adequate substitute? "It would have been nice to have gone to an island in the sun," she replies, "but hopefully we'll do it at the end of the year."

Jane Marlow



American wild card entrant Jennifer Capriati makes a winning return at Wimbledon yesterday following her five-year absence

Capriati's different strokes

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

JENNIFER CAPRIATI arrived at Court 18 yesterday flanked by security men. It was company she is well used to.

We have not seen the woman they used to call "the Phenom" here since 1993, the year she won a little bit of everything. At the age of 17, Capriati's hormones started to move quicker than her legs, her press conferences became more notable than the matches that she played in. She cried at the Australian Open and she cried in Berlin. Full use was made of the breakdown policies.

Jennifer Capriati decided to leave the circuit to catch up on a bit of living, and it was the rebellious teenager bit she concentrated on. If yesterday's contest of Capriati v Pratt had occurred then you might have been excused for thinking it was Capriati playing herself.

Instead of the piercing cry and volley, there was a piercing prospect that Capriati might be the first Olympic winner to have a gold medal swinging from her belly button. She wore black boots, adopted the grunge look and started to meet other security men.

She was arrested for shoplifting and possession of marijuana in a Miami motel room. Her party-mates said

heroin and crack cocaine had also been consumed.

Capriati missed nine Grand Slams in succession but, after entering a drug rehabilitation programme, she started a comeback in 1996. The native New Yorker has yet to recapture the effervescence of the old days, or the backers for that matter. It means something, however, just to be back playing.

When she started as a 13-year-old pro, Capriati carried with her million-dollar contracts from equipment and clothes manufacturers before she had hit a ball, and logos and sponsors' names crowded out the material on her shirt.

The former harlequin had

the name of just one supporter on her outfit when she peeled off yesterday.

Some have suggested this wild child who has been granted a wild card will be a dangerous floater in this tournament, but there was not much floating going on yesterday. The American's fitness has yet to return fully. It will be worked on by Tom Gullickson, the American Davis Cup team captain. "She has got a ways to go but you've got to start somewhere," he said. "Her fitness is going to take time, but you could see the strokes were still there even if they were a little rusty."

"It seems strange to be talking about her making another

comeback at 22. Young girls seem to mature physically much earlier and are able to play against people much older than themselves. Whether they are mentally or emotionally ready is a different issue."

The crowd was massively on Capriati's side, but there was a sadness in their manner. The feeling was that they were trying to revitalise this dead bloom of a young player.

The contest became life in microcosm for Capriati. On occasions she was masterful and bold, but also there were moments of fragility and disaffection. In the end she beat Nicole Pratt 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, but the Australian is only the world No

81 and has never been past the second round of a Grand Slam in her life. Pratt could well have changed that record.

The actual winner smiled and later told us how happy she was. But if this what it is like being Jennifer Capriati then maybe it isn't so nice being a tennis player. At least the American managed a dry press conference. "Right now I'm not like 100 per cent in perfect condition or shape," she admitted.

There was also recognition that any return to the summit would be conditioned by her attitude. "That's everything with me," Capriati said. "How bad I want it depends on how well I move and movement is a big

part of my game, getting in position to hit. I guess you never lose the touch, I don't think that ever goes away. It's just everything else that goes around it and with me that's definitely desire and fitness."

"Right now I want it pretty bad and I'm really focused and determined to play well."

It was Capriati's collapse that persuaded the Women's Tennis Association to limit the number of pro matches young players could contest. That is just part of the legacy she has left behind for the likes of Martina Hingis, Anna Kournikova and the Williams sisters, Venus and Serena, who now know what early celebrity and success can do.

Capriati was asked what recommendations she had for the new model army, but it took a while for words to come. "I really don't have any advice for them at all," she said. "They're doing well on their own. It seems they like the hype and they feed off it. But it's not my sort of personality."

It certainly used to be, but then Jennifer Capriati's character has changed somewhat. It is not something she can explain quickly. "I could be here all day for that," she said. "That could even take a year."

"But now I'm in control of whatever I'm doing, and I try to be happy off the court as well as on the court."



An official gets down to the technical business of checking that the court is level

Robert Hallam

DEEDS OF THE SEEDS

Men's singles		Women's singles	
Holder: Pete Sampras (United States)		Holder: Martina Hingis (Switzerland)	
1 SAMPRAS Greatest man for defending champ in R3	1 HINGIS Meets Maratona of Russia in R2		
2 RIOS Defeat in five sets by Spain's Claret	2 MORITA Venerable Venus is next in R3	3 MORITA Eastbourne champion comes out in R2	4 GRAP German teen, 2nd in R3
3 AGASSI Early wins over Davenport sets him into R3	3 SAMPRAS Venerable Venus is next in R3	5 AGASSI Through into 4th after losing first set	5 SELLIS Only dropped two games on way to R3
4 KURKIJA Archie Young's fourth win in R2	4 NOVOTNKA Eastbourne champion comes out in R2	6 SELLIS Only dropped two games on way to R3	6 WILLIAMS American sister in R2
5 AGASSI Morocco's Agassi is next in R3	5 SAMPRAS Through into 4th after losing first set	7 WILLIAMS American sister in R2	
6 RAPTER Sweden's Rapter is next for Pet	6 SAMPRAS Through into 4th after losing first set		
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194 RAPTER Sweden's Rapter is next for Pet	194 SAMPRAS Through into 4th after losing first set		
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197 AGASSI Morocco's Agassi is next in R3	197 SAMPRAS Through into 4th after losing first set		
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26/SPORT

Prichard leads Essex
to 10-wicket victory

CRICKET

ESSEX CRUISED to a crushing 10-wicket victory over Cheshire as they began the defence of the NatWest trophy they won almost as easily at Lord's last September.

That day it was a nine-wicket triumph over Warwickshire with their captain, Paul Prichard, scoring 57. Yesterday, at the more homely surroundings of Chester's Broughton Hall, Prichard hit 55 to ease Essex to 96 without loss, their innings taking just 78 minutes and ending in the 24th over.

Prichard's partner, Darren Robinson, reached 37 with the first-class county determined to finish the contest during a rare

sunny spell on a day of drizzle, gloom and high winds.

The only time that Essex were made to sweat was in the first couple of overs of their innings when Robinson was lucky to avoid being run out by a direct hit from the Zimbabwean Test player, Grant Flower, when the umpire seemed to be unsighted. Prichard was then dropped in the slips by John Bean.

From then on it was a comfortable march to triumph after Cheshire had been asked to bat in the most difficult of conditions. The Minor Counties side were restricted to 82, with extras making up a third of their total.

They were demolished by Ronnie Irani and Peter Such, who took five wickets for 14

runs in 10 overs between them in a crucial spell after lunch.

Irani, the man of the match, bowled with good pace to claim 3 for 13 in his 10 overs. Such chipping in with 2 for 10.

Cheshire's gamble of bringing in Flower did not pay off. His registration had been rushed through, but he failed to make any impact on a side with a reputation as one-day specialists who are heading for Lord's again next month for the Benson and Hedges final.

Yorkshire's path into the second round was almost as easy, the joint AKA League leaders cruising to a nine-wicket win over Devon at Exmouth.

Peter Roebuck, the former Somerset captain who now

leads Devon, gambled on batting first and lost as his side were dismissed for 80.

Paul Hutchinson marked his NatWest debut with three for 18 off 12 overs, and although Yorkshire lost David Byas, leg-before to Stuart MacGill, Michael Vaughan and Matt Wood knocked off the rest of the runs to clinch victory inside 21 overs.

Gary Kirsten scored 205 not out, the fourth double century of his career and his first for his country, to lead South Africa to 394 for 1 declared against British Universities at Fenners today. He shared a 257-run unbroken second-wicket partnership with Jacques Kallis, who was 108 not out when South Africa declared.



South Africa's Gary Kirsten drives during his half century against British Universities yesterday

Allsport

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

NatWest Trophy

1st Round

Cheshire v Essex

Cheshire beat Essex by 10 wickets

Essex won toss

Cheshire — First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mins
P R Bryson bow b Irani	0	0	0	0	0
G Flower c Rollins b Cowan	0	0	0	0	0
J D Bean c Hussain b Cowan	0	0	0	0	0
1 Cockburn bow b Irani	0	0	0	0	0
S C Wainwright c Prichard b Irani	0	0	0	0	0
R G Higgins c Law b Irani	0	0	0	0	0
N D Cross run out	0	0	0	0	0
S A Storer run out	0	0	0	0	0
15 Bramhall c Hussain b Such	0	0	0	0	0
S W Hampson c Irani b Such	0	0	0	0	0
A J Murphy c Rollins b Irani	0	0	0	0	0
Extras (nb 10 w10 nb6)	34				
Total (36 overs)	82				
Falls: 1-0, 2-17, 3-23, 4-54, 5-62, 6-65, 7-68, 8-70, 9-76.					

Bowling: M C Irani 8.5-23-2; A P Cowan 6-0-16-2; S G Law 3-12-0; R C Irani 10-13-3; P M Such 9-3-10-2.

Essex — First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mins
P J Prichard not out	55	0	7	7	78
D J Robinson not out	37	0	6	7	78
Extras (w12 nb2)	4				
Total (for 2, 24 overs)	96				
To bat: N Hussain, S G Law, R C Irani, A P Grayson, R J Rollins, D R Law, A P Cowan, M C Irani, P M Such, Bowler: A J Murphy 7-1-22-0; S A Storer 6-0-27-0; S W Hampson 7-1-32-0; S C Wainwright 3.5-0-15-0; G Flower 1-0-0-0.					

Umpires: J D Bond and R Julian

Derbyshire v Cumberland

Derbyshire beat Cumberland by 148 runs with 5 wickets in hand.

Cumberland won toss

Derbyshire — First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mins
K J Barnett b Duggan	33	0	0	0	0
M J Slater b Pennington	0	0	0	0	0
T A Twiss bow b Pennington	0	0	0	0	0
R J Rollins c Dutton b Sharp	58	0	0	0	0
M E Cassar run out	30	0	0	0	0
B J Specter run out	43	0	0	0	0
D G Shaw not out	25	0	0	0	0
Extras (nb5 w10 nb2)	12				
Total (for 4, 40 overs)	118				
Falls: 1-6, 2-22, 3-65, 4-86.					

To bat: S A Kippax, J M Fielding, O P Pennington, C E Duggan, M J Slater, P A De Freitas, G M Roberts, K J Dean.

Bowling: D P Pennington 12-5-44-2; M A Sharp 12-3-63-1; J M Fielding 12-2-40-0; C E Duggan 10-0-37-1; S A Kippax 9-0-34-0; P Beach 6-0-43-0.

Cumberland — First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mins
A O Mawson c Rollins b Cork	0	0	0	0	0
A A Macfarlane bow b Dean	0	0	0	0	0
S T Knox c Clarke	27	0	0	0	0
D J Pearson b Roberts	24	0	0	0	0
J S Mutton not out	28	0	0	0	0
P Beech not out	14	0	0	0	0
Extras (nb5 w10 nb2)	12				
Total (for 4, 40 overs)	118				
Falls: 1-6, 2-22, 3-65, 4-86.					

To bat: S A Kippax, J M Fielding, O P Pennington, C E Duggan, M J Slater, P A De Freitas, G M Roberts, K J Dean.

Umpires: J D Bond and R Julian

Devon v Yorkshire

Devon beat Yorkshire by 9 wickets

Devon won toss

Devon — First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mins
N R Gaywood c Bailey b Hutchinson	0	0	0	0	0
G T Townsend c McGrath b Hutchinson	0	0	0	0	0
N A Folland bow b Hutchinson	0	0	0	0	0
K A D Barratt c Byas b Hamilton	0	0	0	0	0
A J Pugh bow b Hamilton	0	0	0	0	0
P M Robbuck c Byas b Silverwood	0	0	0	0	0
M K Hale c Byas b Hamilton	0	0	0	0	0
K Donohue c Bailey b Silverwood	0	0	0	0	0
A C Costain b Silverwood	0	0	0	0	0
S C G Campbell c Bailey b Silverwood	0	0	0	0	0
I E Bishop not out	0	0	0	0	0
Extras (nb4 w10 nb2)	15				
Total (28 overs)	80				
Falls: 1-10, 2-26, 3-36, 4-43, 5-52, 6-56, 7-66, 8-76, 9-76.					

Bowling: C E W Silverwood 6.3-1-14-1; P M Hutchinson 12-4-18-3; R J Silverwood 4-1-15-3; G M Hamilton 6-0-27-3.

Umpires: A Harrison and G Sharp

Yorkshire — First Innings

Yorkshire beat Essex by 10 wickets

Essex won toss

Yorkshire — First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mins
* O Byas bow b MacGill	14	0	2	14	20
M P Vaughan not out	38	0	3	63	70
M J Wood not out	25	0	2	46	48
Extras (w12 nb2)	4				
Total (for 1, 20 overs)	81				
Falls: 1-22.					

To bat: A McGrath, D S Lehmann, B Parker, R J Bailey, G M Hamilton, C E W Silverwood, P M Hutchinson, R J Sidebottom.

Bowling: K Donohue 5-0-23-0; I E Bishop 7-0-27-0; S C MacGill 8-1-29-1; A C Costain 0-2-0-0.

Umpires: N A Maffinder and R Palmer

Dorset v Hampshire

Dorset beat Hampshire by 288 runs with 7 wickets in hand.

Hampshire won toss

Dorset — First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mins
G W White bow b Shackleton	0	0	0	0	0
J P Stephenson c Lamb b Forshaw	0	0	0	0	0
* R A Smith not out	144	0	0	22	6
P R Whalley c b Forshaw	0	0	0	0	0
I A N Aymes c Scott	73	1	5	125	163
N A M Lean c Rintoul b Pym	33	2	2	25	29
A D Macarthen not out	30	2	13	24	38
Extras (nb5 w10 nb10)	35				
Total (for 5, 60 overs)	315				
Falls: 1-0, 2-0, 3-0, 4-179, 5-244.					

Did not bat: M Keen, S D Udd, K D James, C A Connor.

Bowling: J H Shackleton 12-6-18-1; S M Forshaw 9-2-59-2; V J Pike 12-3-36-0; R J Scott 12-0-89-1; R Pym 12-0-81-1; D D Ferreira 3-0-26-0.

Umpires: J H Harris and K J Lyons

Glamorgan v Bedfordshire

Glamorgan beat Bedfordshire by 9 wickets

Bedfordshire won toss

Glamorgan — First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mins
S P James c Sandford b Dalton	0	0	0	0	0
R D B Croft bow b Hughes	0	0	0	0	0
A Dale b Sher	0	0	0	0	0
M P Maynard bow b Roberts	0	0	0	0	0
P A Cotter c Larkins b Hughes	0	0	0	0	0
M J Powell b Sher	0	0	0	0	0
I A D Shaw not out	43	0	0	42	58
S D Thomas not out	27	1	3	16	21
Extras (nb5 w10 w12 nb6)	40				
Total (for 6, 59 overs)	368				
Falls: 1-1, 2-124, 3-181, 4-227, 5-362, 6-310.					

To bat: Wager Youngs, S L Wadkin, O T Parkin.

Bowling: P Hughes 10-0-60-2; M A Sher 11-0-77-2; R N Dalton 10-1-42-1; A J Parkin 12-0-83-0.

Umpires: M J Kitchen and A T Whitehead

Glamorgan v Northamptonshire

Glamorgan beat Northamptonshire by 9 wickets

Northamptonshire won toss

Glamorgan — First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mins
D R Hewson c Curran b Rose	49	0	3	81	106
T H Hancock c Walton b Malcolm	0	0	0	0	0
A J Wright c Bailey b Taylor	28	0	4	37	36
* M W Alleyne not out	15	0	1	16	26
M G N Windows not out	11	0	1	20	19
Extras (nb4 w3)	7				
Total (for 3, 47 overs)	166				
Falls: 1-99, 2-139, 3-141.					

To bat: R Dawson, R C Russell, M C J Ball, J Lewis, A M Smith, C A Walsh.

Bowling: D E Malcolm 9-0-29-1; J P Taylor 9-2-19-1; F A Rose 9-1-26-1; A L Pennington 7-1-26-0; K M Curran 5-0-27-0; J N Snape 8-1-35-0.

Umpires: A Harrison and G Sharp

Kent v Cambridgeshire

Kent beat Cambridgeshire by 8 wickets

Cambridgeshire won toss

Kent — First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mins
D P Fulton c Durant b Ralls	15	0	1	27	33
R W T Key c Durant b Aiaz Akbar	18	0	1	35	38
* V R Ward not out	61	0	7	93	83
A P Wells not out	52	0	7	70	78
Extras (nb1 w12 nb2)	9				
Total (for 2, 37 overs)	154				
Falls: 1-34, 2-34.					

To bat: C L Hooper, M A Eastham, S C Willis, B J Phillips, M V Fleming, M J McCague, D W Headley.

Bowling: Aiaz Akbar 6-1-21-1; D F Ralls 9-2-26-1; P T Latham 4-0-16-0; T S Smith 6-1-20-0; B T P Dawson 7-0-37-0; N Mohammed 3-2-0-23-0.

Umpires: J H Harris and K J Lyons

Cambridgeshire — First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mins
J S G Norman c Ward b McCague	7	0	0	32	38
N T Gadsby c Phillips b Hooper	23	0	2	103	5
S A Kellert c Headley b Phillips	20	0	1	62	67
S Mohammed c Hooper b Phillips	4	0	1	11	12
N Mohammed run out	0	0	0	0	0
T P Dorey c Ward b Phillips	35	0	0	89	89
I P T Latham c Willis b Headley	12	0	0	50	61
Did Not Bat: C L Hooper, M A Eastham, S C Willis, B J Phillips, M V Fleming, M J McCague, D W Headley.					
Falls: 1-56, 2-134, 3-139, 4-142, 5-156.					

Did not bat: C L Hooper, M A Eastham, S C Willis, B J Phillips, M V Fleming, M J McCague, D W Headley.

Bowling: J D Lewis 9.5-1-32-3; R J Kirtley 5-1-15-0; M A Robinson 9-2-31-1; P W Jarvis 6-0-37-1; M G Bevan 9-5-40-0.

Umpires: K E Palmer and M J Harris

Lancashire v Sussex

Lancashire beat Sussex by 17 runs with 8 wickets in hand.

Sussex won toss

Lancashire — First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mins
M A Ashton c Humphries b Levy	53	0	5	97	125
A Finnott c Jarvis b Robinson	35	1	4	41	59
* J P Crawley c Bevan b Levy	32	0	5	62	70
N H Lloyd not out	7	0	1	13	3
G F Fairbrother	7	0	1	15	20
M Wadsworth bow b Jarvis	7	0	1	10	1
I D Austin not out	0	0	0	0	3
Extras (nb1 w11 nb4)	16				
Total (for 5, 39 overs)	157				
Falls: 1-56, 2-134, 3-139, 4-142, 5-156.					

To bat: R Green, G Yates, G Chapple, P J Martin.

Bowling: J D Lewis 9.5-1-32-3; R J Kirtley 5-1-15-0; M A Robinson 9-2-31-1; P W Jarvis 6-0-37-1; M G Bevan 9-5-40-0.

Umpires: K E Palmer and M J Harris

Lancashire v Staffordshire

Lancashire beat Staffordshire by 6 wickets

Staffordshire won toss

Lancashire — First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bs	Mins
* J Dean c Wells b Lewis	1	0	0	13	12
I W Stokes c Nixon b Mullally	4	0	0	37	45
L Porter c Brimicombe	22	0	2	93	101
P E Wellings b Williamson	20	0	2	59	62
N Steele c Mackay b Williamson	24	0	2	57	57
P Harvey b Mullally	32	0	2	69	69
R Worrall c Nixon b Lewis	20	0	2	24	24
I M Humphries not out	15	0	2	12	23
A J P Boden c Nixon b Lewis	8	0	1	7	8
A Richardson b Lewis	3	0	0	4	8
S D Horne c Nixon b Lewis	2	0	0	3	0
Extras (nb1 w13 nb8)	38				
Total (for 5, 37 overs)	189				
Falls: 1-15, 2-21, 3-78, 4-82, 5-127, 6-159, 7-161, 8-177, 9-187.					

Bowling: A O Mullally 12-2-40-2; C C Lewis 9-4-3-19-5; P V Simmons 9-2-27-0; J V Wells 7-1-23-0; O Williamson 11-1-34-2; M T Brimicombe 11-1-

28/WORLD CUP

Back to basics: Scotland return home to undertake rebuilding programme with limited resources

Brown lacking quality control

BY PHIL SHAW
in Avignon

ONCE UPON a time in the 1960s, Scotland were leading 1-0 against what used to be described as a "crack Latin outfit". One of Hampden Park's legendary fans with type-writers was dictating his report. "Magnifico, magnifico, magnifico," it started. Then a last-gasp equaliser went in. "Scrap that," he barked down the phone. "Make it 'This won't do, Scotland'."

A similar lurch in perceptions was clearly discernible among the present-day supporters with laptop computers and their compatriots in the stands as Craig Brown's team succumbed 3-0 to Morocco in St Etienne. On a night which began with genuine hope of a first-ever place in the second round, Scotland gave their worst display in four and a half years under Brown's management.

After all the great expectations, the Scots slipped back into Glasgow last night with the final Group A table showing them a distant fourth with a solitary point.

Statistically, they have fared worse in the World Cup, but only just. 44 years ago they lost both matches in Switzerland and failed to score while conceding eight goals. In both 1958 and 1986 they returned with only a draw, although all their defeats were by a single goal. On each of their remaining four visits to the finals, Scotland recorded a victory. Even the infamous Ally MacLeod-led expedition of two decades ago, garnered four points and a win against one of the eventual finalists.

Yet it would be a mistake and unfair to deduce that this is the worst Scotland side since 1954. Brown, with arguably fewer players of international class to choose from than any of his predecessors, has attempted to compensate with a collective spirit allied to virtues which Scots pride in England: work-rate, discipline and organisation.

In the anguished aftermath of Tuesday's collapse, it is easy to overlook how far such qualities have taken Scotland since Brown succeeded Andy Roxburgh. Coming in at the tail-end of a failed campaign to qualify for USA 94, he led them to Euro 96. Only a Dutch consolation goal against England prevented their advance to the last eight.

Then, from a section which in-



Dejected goalkeeper Jim Leighton can only sit and stare as Scotland head out of the World Cup at the hands of Morocco on Tuesday

Empics

cluded Sweden, the 1994 World Cup semi-finalists, and Austria, they made it to France largely on the back of extraordinary defensive mean-ness. Sod's law, which has a specific sub-clause covering Scotland, therefore dictated that they would be undermined by lapses at the back. First they gifted a goal to Brazil inside four minutes. Later, after a fully-merited equaliser, came Tom Boyd's own-goal, a throwback to the self-inflicted wounds of the past.

Morale was still high at that point. Scotland could easily have drawn and Brown, not unreasonably, was confident the world champions would also beat Morocco and Norway.

With hindsight, Scotland's own meeting with the Norwegians was

the crucial missed opportunity. "We slaughtered them 1-1," one player told me. After donating another soft goal to their opponents they had to rely on a Craig Burley special to make the last game meaningful.

The heavy possibilities blinded people to the fact that many of the Moroccan team play at a high level in Europe. In the event, Scotland were victims of the sucker-punch, three times over. The north Africans allowed them possession and territory, sure that their pace could be punitive on the break.

So it proved. Jim Leighton, in particular, endured a torrid evening. The image of him floundering in the net after the second goal, like a freshly-landed salmon was sadly symbolic.

However, Leighton's 40th birthday looms next month and Scotland must look to the future. In the short term that means European Championship qualifying. Neil Sullivan, of Wimbledon, should start in goal, while Boyd and Gordon Durie may gradually fade from the front-line.

Therein lies a dilemma for Brown. Seven of those on duty against Morocco were in their thirties. Unfortunately, the younger players coming through, like Celtic's Jackie McNamara, do not look ready.

The most impressive unit at France 98 was the midfield axis of John Collins and Paul Lambert. Burley, notwithstanding the irresponsible lunge that led to his sending off, put in enough shots to

suggest that he deserves a run as their attacking foil.

Goal-scoring remains the biggest problem. Kevin Gallacher, top scorer in qualifying, did not receive a chance in the three matches, though neither her nor Durie averages better than one in five anyway.

The return of Gary McAllister would give Scotland's passing greater range and penetration. His injury last winter proved to be only the tip of an iceberg of ill-fortune. Witness the incapacitation of Colin Calderwood and Billy McKinlay, plus two plausible penalty appeals that were rejected.

The spot-kick with which Norway reached the last 16 was enough to turn the mildest Scot into a con-

spiracy theorist. But, as the Tartan Army headed home, having enriched the spectacle with sound, colour and boozing affability, the real hard luck story belonged to Morocco.

When they went from ecstasy to emptiness in the time it took for word of Norway's win to come through, my mind went back to 1990. Egypt had just beaten Scotland and another scribe of the old school was filling his copy. On putting the phone down he turned to his colleagues and said: "Are these guys Arabs?"

"Aye," came the answer. He went back on to his office, instructing them to delete Egypt and make it "The Arabian Knights of Soccer". The fez fits Morocco nicely, but Scotland must focus on the European nights ahead.



DIARY

DESPITE SCOTLAND'S failure to bring home the bacon, their World Cup lives on with three Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs at Glasgow Zoo. The night of a litter of seven born on the opening day of the finals has been christened "Eggs" after the Norway coach, Egil Olsen, who allegedly suggested Scotland might prove the group's weakest side. Another runt is known as Martin, following Martin O'Neill's remark that they were "the worst team in the tournament". And a third is called "Jimmy", proving that Jimmy Hill's dismissal of David Naray's stunning goal against Brazil in 1982 as a "toe-poke" is still regarded by Scots as an unforgivable porky-pie.

THE NEXT challenge for the World Cup winners' will come from a team of robots - not this time round but a strong possibility for future champions. When France 98 closes, Robocup 98 - a five-a-side competition involving robotic teams competing on a table tennis table - will be up and running with a team from Cambridge University taking part. Using techniques Glenn Hoddle might envy, the robots are able to track and follow the action, pass and shoot - all with the aid of a video camera suspended above the table. Teams from 15 countries are taking part and Dr Antony Rowstron, the Cambridge spokesman, said: "To give the robots the same basic abilities as humans is a major challenge. However, we have an advantage over Glenn Hoddle by ensuring our players are always match-fit - we switch the robots off at night." If only that England had had that facility with Teddy Sheringham.

Compiled by Trevor Haylett and Phil Shaw

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"You get a lot of slaps in the face in this game and I think it is fair to say this is another one of those." Jim Leighton, Scotland goalkeeper, after 3-0 defeat to Morocco.

"The biggest disappointment for me is for the fans. They have been magnificent and deserved something in return." Scotland coach, Craig Brown.

"Their main asset is their strength. I look at Adams, Shearer, Seaman and many others, and they are so tall." Colombia's Carlos Valderrama on England.

Exhausted army reflects with sadness

FOR ALL the singing and dancing in defeat, the morning after brought a stark reality.

Played three, lost two, drawn one and bottom of the table. The coach, Craig Brown, a noted stickler for statistics, knows these are the only important figures.

Scotland confirmed their status as a footballing power just inside the world's top 32 but the real stories were in the stands. As the remains of Craig Brown's squad trudged round the Stade Geoffroy Guichard, I could not figure out who felt worse, the players or the fans.

As a player I well remember having to make those sort of gestures to the amazing Tartan Army, after letting them down yet again. In 1992 in Sweden it was exactly the same.

There could never be a question over the endeavour of everyone of Scotland's players, but just once, just



PAT NEVIN

once it would be right to give them something more than a moral victory at this level.

Unusually and surprisingly the players could not even produce a moral victory this time, against a Moroccan side who have valid claims to be more heartbroken than the Scots. A cynic might say the players' disappointment is selfish. But they

wanted the glory, the financial rewards and the satisfaction that qualification would bring for themselves. It is just not true that, above all, they want it for the fans.

When walking around a foreign stadium acknowledging those fans after defeat and witnessing them singing their hearts out, the feeling of guilt is overpowering.

Although the hordes of kilted Scotsmen and women bedecked in lion ramparts is a moving sight, it is also a hard one to swallow. In many ways it would be easier for the players to deal with if the fans went away and sang elsewhere.

The world may well have been given a colourful view of the Scottish fans seemingly happy and carefree in defeat, but the hearts of all concerned were heavy. Because even though we promised ourselves repeatedly that it would not happen again, it did. We allowed ourselves

to believe against our better judgement that we could do it, that we were good enough.

After the game I stayed in the centre of St Etienne. At 4.30am I went down to the train station to see... well, just to see, really. A few die-hards sang but most lay on benches or on the hard ground fully clothed trying to snatch a couple of hours' sleep. The behaviour was as ever impeccable and there was not even a trace of anger, only a sadness that was painful to behold.

At the extreme risk of getting over-melodramatic, the scene in that station brought to mind the scene in the movie *Braveheart* just as the Scots had lost the battle to the English. The hundreds strewn across the station were exhausted, they had travelled a long way and had given so much of themselves to this.

Whether it was their hopes or their hard-earned cash, not one

word of complaint was uttered in this uncomfortable and painful hour. I would have liked some other journalists to have been there, but doubtless some would have been unable to resist the unfair comparison of the fans sleeping rough while the players were tucked up in their comfortable five star bedrooms back in St Rémy.

What they may have missed was the fact that there were plenty of current and former Scottish professional footballers there, who had roughed it too. I met four other players in and around St Etienne, none of whom had a cushy press number like me. It proved that most Scottish players including internationals will happily give up their comfy bed for the Saltire wrapped around you on the platform, when the time comes.

I heard plenty of stories from fans who had gone to outrageous lengths just to go through this exquisite

torture. I wonder if the guy who told his wife that he was working in Torquay for two weeks, will ever be rumbled? If the student from Glenrothes who had borrowed well beyond his means will spend the next two years doing overtime to get back on an even keel?

In the end the real party is just getting going and the beautiful people are going to have a wonderful time as we are slumming it home. Once again they did not let us in, but only allowed us to entertain them on the doorstep with our curious antics for a little while.

As the last Scots dribbled out of France and the World Cup experience, I wondered if we will ever manage to get back again. I think they would love to have us - but I fear this may have been their last real chance. They liked us, but we just weren't good enough or sophisticated enough for them.

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Solutions for a small planet

A tartan suit and an inflatable killer whale

IT IS customary in the aftermath of an English defeat to look around for one of the other Home Nations to adopt as "Our Boys". So, as Gene Pitney once sang "24 Hours From Toulouse", the Scottish team had become the focus of our hopes, we were British now, not English.

Jimmy Hill rallied to the cause in familiar fashion by wearing a bow tie with the blue and white cross of St Andrew, thereby establishing a clear connection between the Scottish patron saint and a patronising English git.

Would it be torment by Hagl one night followed by torment from Hagl the next? Hill admitted to being filled with "fear and trepidation", perhaps suspecting that some of the old Patrick Thistle might be aroused in the boy Hansen sitting just two seats away from him. The

STAN HEY

VIEW FROM THE ARMCHAIR



panel were out on the roof terrace again and it looks like a long drop but Hansen remained as placid as ever.

"We need optimism," he said emphatically.

The chief source of this unusually upbeat view was out the Scottish team itself but the Moroccan goalkeeper Driss Benzekri, who had looked previously like a classic "dodge pot".

Meanwhile, Ally McCoist had

been sent, somewhat cruelly, to the stadium itself and was glimpsed to his tartan suit with an inflatable killer whale under his arm, as per standard BBC presentational rules.

The consensus seemed to be that "Scotland would give it their best shot", always assuming that Gordon Durie and Kevin Gallacher could remember what one of these was.

My BBC transmission had Barry Davies and David Pleat as commentators, but I presume that north of the border a less neutral pairing would have been deployed behind the microphones - Sean Connery and Rah C Nesbitt perhaps?

At first, Davies and Pleat were commendably even-handed, but they gradually "upped their tempo" as Scotland began to assert themselves.

"Working nice triangles, playing a progressive ball after three or four passes," Pleat cooed in coach-coo, while Davies resorted to a more basic tactical analysis.

"Somebody's got to sink it," he yelled as the ball bobbed around the Moroccan box in search of a Scottish boot.

Unfortunately, it was the Moroccan who produced a progressive ball, a 60-yard hoof downfield which cleared Colin Hendry. Pleat was soon to describe Hendry as a colossus, and he certainly looked like a statue as Salaheddine Bassir ran on to the ball and then the inevitable happened, the Vaseline slid off Jim Leighton's forehead and into his eyes and he lost sight of his near post. Bassir bashed in his goal and you could almost hear the wind leaking out of the bagpipes.

At half-time Hansen was still clinging to the lifebelt of the Moroccan keeper's helplessness, but correctly identified Scotland's dilemma. They needed to attack but not to expose themselves to the pace of the Moroccan forwards.

Scotland solved this immediately by conceding a second goal, Abdelhadi Hadda's shot squirting in off the Vaseline on Leighton's gloves. The Brazil against Norway score in the top corner of our screens now became irrelevant to all but the Moroccan and Norwegian viewers of the BBC.

Scotland at least improved on their previous World Cup teams by getting their agony over quickly, Craig Burley's ludicrous lunge being the symbolic point of departure.

Scottish fans waved a flag with

the name Culloden stitched across it, perhaps in memory of a more painful defeat. But the drama was happening elsewhere as the little graphic in the corner registered "un point" for Norway as they equalised against Brazil.

Our emotional focus was now with the Moroccan as they joyously added a third goal unaware of the climax unfolding in Marseille.

A brilliant editorial decision by the BBC to cut away from the Scotland game allowed us to see Norway snatch a victory after what turned out to be perhaps the most morally dubious penalty claim ever.

The final stages of Scotland's game therefore became not an epitaph for their own efforts to qualify but for Morocco's spirited football. As the final whistle sounded their players celebrated progress in the

tournament, but the cameras revealed the dawning dread on their faces as the fateful news was relayed to them. Scotland had been there before, but now they were classed in their role of bystanders to somebody else's grief.

Ally McCoist generously expressed his sorrow for Morocco, before departing for a drink with the Scottish supporters. He should be back before the start of next season.

Meanwhile, ITV had drafted in Alex Ferguson to conduct the last rites on Scotland but were diverted by an editorial urge to stoke up the growing feud between him and Glenn Hoddle. Jim Rosenthal probed but, when Fergie's eyes narrowed to slits and the smile became razor thin on his face, Jim recognised the look of a killer whale and swam into shallower waters.

★ Last chance in Lens: Owen and Beckham in Hoddle's reckoning as South Americans confront their own demons

England rebuild priceless self-belief

BY GLENN MOORE
in La Baulle

FORTYEIGHT hours after waking up with a Romanian hangover England are well into the necessary process of lifting themselves for tomorrow's decisive group match with Colombia.

With so little to choose between teams at this World Cup the intangible aspects, such as confidence, become all the more important and England's management team have been working hard to restore the self-belief that enables players to express themselves.

The Toulouse defeat has been reassessed as a good performance marred by uncharacteristic errors which allowed an excellent team to beat them. Subsequent results have been skilfully used to add a further gloss. John Gorman, the assistant coach and main gee-up man, pointed out after a behind-closed-doors training session yesterday that even Brazil had discovered how hard it was to win all seven matches in the competition. Swallowing his national pride he then reminded everybody that, while some countries (one, in fact) had lost heavily to Morocco in France, England had beaten Morocco in Morocco.

England's confidence has been further lifted by the gradual easing of their injury worries. Paul Scholes, who had a bruised hand, is fit as is Sol Campbell, though there is now a doubt about when he was ever injured. Glenn Hoddle, the coach, said he had jaded his knee but, when asked about his knee yesterday Campbell looked perplexed and replied: "What knee?" When the reason for the inquiry was explained he hurriedly added: "It's much better", though he declined to indicate which knee had been jarred.

Paul Ince, whose ankle problem re-occurred in Toulouse, is, said Gorman, increasingly confident of being fit.

"He's an essential player and it was a big loss losing him so early in Toulouse," he added. "But the physios have been working on him all morning and they are more confident that he'll play." Gareth Southgate's situation is less optimistic as his ankle is responding poorly to treatment.

If Ince fails to make it, England are likely to either retain David Beckham or bring in Rob Lee. Since England need a draw Lee, the more defensively disciplined player, would appear the more natural replacement but they insist they will be going out to win. The other element in Hoddle's calculations is that dropping Beckham now, after the controversy over his initial exclusion and his promising performance in Toulouse, may appear vindictive.

"Lee has played that role and been good in training," said Gorman, "but David did exceptionally well when he came in on Monday and, while not the same type of player as Ince, can defend. He gets in quick and closes down players."

Gorman was inevitably drawn into the Beckham affair, which has followed Alex Ferguson's weekend criticism of Hoddle's preference for Darren Anderton and the Football Association's decision to allow Beckham to be interviewed. Hoddle, having said the Manchester United manager's comments were unhelpful, added on television that Beckham had not been "focused on football" when he joined up with the World Cup squad and the club should have dealt with this problem. Ferguson, avoided inflaming the situation in his television appearance a few hours later and Gorman yesterday appeared to back Beckham



Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, still has to resolve the David Beckham question

rather than Hoddle. "I've always felt his attitude had been fine," he said.

The other course *celibre* of England's campaign so far is Michael Owen. It increasingly appears he will start tomorrow. "We always intended to nurse him along. But we love him, he is so exciting," Gorman insisted. "He has an old head on young shoulders and is ready to play - as is anyone in the 22."

One of them is the injury-free Campbell, who echoed the general

mood with his view that the performance was good. "Romania may have kept the ball but they didn't really penetrate. They didn't make the chances we did," he said. "Losing may help us. English teams sometimes play better if they're up against it. If we'd drawn with Romania we might have been a bit too relaxed. Instead we've had a kick up the rear end."

Campbell goes into the match with a booking and, though there will be an amnesty after the group

stages for anyone on one yellow, if he is cautioned in Lens he would still be suspended for the second round. "I can't worry about getting another [yellow card]," he said. "If you do that you don't do your job properly."

And, finally, Gorman admitted that since qualifying for the World Cup, the team "had not played as well as we believe they can as often as we would like." It was not an admission to inspire confidence but it was an honest one.

Colombians living with the past

For Hernan Dario Gomez and his squad, failure in France will bring a sinister reminder of USA 94. By Adam Szreter

"WHEN HERNAN DARIO GOMEZ said the match against England was a matter of life and death, he was speaking strictly in a footballing sense," stressed a Colombian journalist at the team's training camp in La Tour-du-Pin, a picturesque village in the Isere valley to the east of Lyons.

Given the events of 1994, when Andres Escobar was shot dead in Medellin less than a week after scoring the own goal that effectively ended Colombia's interest in the last World Cup, you might have thought their present coach would have chosen his words more carefully. It was a crime that shocked everyone, and one that the Colombians have been slowly recovering from ever since.

"It was not, as everyone said, a direct consequence of his own goal," another colleague from Bogota explained. "He was not shot as a punishment. He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time, and said the wrong thing to the wrong person who was hurting himself at him. Just prior to that, his parents had asked him to stay in the United States with them for a few days, but Escobar apparently told them that he wanted to go home to face the Colombian people."

Gomez, assistant coach at USA 94, took on the responsibility of leading his nation out of the doldrums when Francisco Maturana stepped down following that fateful campaign. But, like his predecessor, Gomez has already taken the precaution of announcing that he intends to resign when this tournament is over. Under Gomez, Colombia bounced back well to reach the quarter-finals of the Copa America in 1995 and 1997, and came through the tough South American World Cup qualifying group in third place, just two points behind the eventual winners, Argentina.

They are still heavily dependent upon the 37-year-old Carlos Valderrama, without whose outrageous hair no World Cup would seem complete. He may not move quite as

quickly and his passing may not be quite as precise as it once was, but England would be ill-advised to take him lightly. In the 1-0 win over Tunisia he was outstanding.

Also appearing in his third World Cup is Valderrama's midfield ally Freddy Rincon, now plying his trade with Corinthians in Brazil following unhappy spells with Napoli and Real Madrid. But another name synonymous with Colombian football in recent years has not made it this time - Rene Higuita, the man who put the smile back on the face of Colombian football with his famous scorpion-kick at Wembley from the next generation comes 21-year-old Leider Preciado, who scored the winner against Tunisia, and who was virtually unknown outside the Colombian Second Division before the tournament. Now though, he has been chosen to fill the boots of Faustino Asprilla since the former Newcastle man was sent packing by Gomez following a night on the town in Paris.

The general consensus in the Colombian camp seems to be that the coach did the right thing in sending Asprilla home for talking out of turn and, although his skills will be sorely missed, his suspect temperament will be one less worry for Gomez.

Coming into the World Cup, the Colombians were confident of making progress. They were determined to make amends for their defeat by Romania in the United States, but that was not to be as they lost on Valderrama's old stamping ground at Montpellier to Adrian Ilie's goal in their first Group G match.

They improved against Tunisia but were fortunate to take all three points after a spirited display by Henryk Kasperczak's side. Now they know only a win against England in Lens tomorrow will be good enough to go through, but there should be little danger of the Colombians getting anything out of perspective this time.

Stam's Dutch warning

THE NEW Manchester United defender Jaap Stam has warned his Dutch team-mates against complacency for their Group E decider against Mexico today.

The Dutch were prolific against South Korea in their last match, winning 5-0, and they defeated Mexico in a recent friendly in Miami 3-2. But United's £10.75m summer signing from PSV Eindhoven was cautious about the Netherlands' chances against the Mexicans after they hit back to draw 2-2 against Belgium.

"I watched a few minutes of that match and the Mexicans equalised after being 2-0 down, so we shouldn't underestimate them," Stam said.

The Dutch coach, Guus Hiddink, is also expecting a tougher match,

with Mexico being much more worldly-wise than the Koreans and the game being played in the heat of the afternoon in St Etienne. "It will be harder as well because I consider Mexico a very experienced team," he said. "They also have a number of very skilful players, so we must be on our toes."

In the group's other final match, in Belgium take on South Korea in Paris. George Leekens, the Belgian coach, is expected to keep faith with his two strikers, Luc Nilis and Luis Oliveira, despite media criticism of the pair.

"I have to go for experience and their commitment will be total," Leekens said. "There has been criticism, but you must respect them."

German team holds crisis talks

GERMANY'S PLAYERS held a clear-the-air meeting yesterday before their final Group F encounter with Iran today - and then warned that they are ready to step up a gear after two unimpressive performances.

The triple world champions struggled to beat the United States 2-0 and just scraped a 2-2 draw with Yugoslavia, leaving them needing a draw against Iran to go through.

Should the Germans lose and fail to qualify, it would be the first time they will have been knocked out in the first round since 1938 - the last time the World Cup was held in France. With this in mind, Germany's captain, Jurgen Klinsmann, called the meeting to sort out the squad's problems before they meet a resurgent Iran, who are still celebrating after beating the Americans 2-1 last Sunday.

"The meeting was what was required after the Yugoslav match and we all had our say and got things off our chests," the sweeper Olaf Thon said. The 32-year-old Schalke 04 player, whose superb form over the last two seasons earned him a recall, dismissed suggestions there was a rift with the coach, Bert Vogts. "It is normal after two below-par performances for the players to hold their own talks," he said.

GROUP F: THE PERMUTATIONS

The group winners meet the runners-up from Group E and the second-placed team meet the Group E winners, both matches to take place on Monday. Classification decided by (in order): points, goal difference, number of goals scored, outcome of encounter between the two sides, drawing of lots.

1 Germany beat Iran; Yugoslavia beat USA; both Germany and Yugoslavia finish on seven points. Yugoslavia must improve their goal difference by at least two more goals than Germany to be certain of finishing on top of the group.

2 Germany beat Iran; Yugoslavia draw with USA; Germany win group and Yugoslavia are runners-up.

3 Germany beat Iran; USA beat Yugoslavia; Germany win group and Yugoslavia are runners-up.

4 Germany draw with Iran; Yugoslavia beat USA; Yugoslavia win group and Germany are runners-up.

5 Germany draw with Iran; Yugoslavia draw with USA; Germany win group and Yugoslavia are runners-up.

6 Germany draw with Iran; USA beat Yugoslavia; Germany win group and both Yugoslavia and Iran finish with four points. If Yugoslavia lose by a two-goal margin Iran will finish runners-up. A single-goal defeat will mean Yugoslavia are runners-up as long as their goals total tonight is not two or more less than Iran score tonight.

Fifa defends referees

FIFA YESTERDAY backed the two referees at the centre of more World Cup controversy. Sepp Blatter, the president of football's world governing body, called a meeting with his head of referees, David Will of Scotland, after watching Cameroon score two disallowed goals and Norway beat Brazil with a contested penalty on Tuesday.

The Hungarian official Laszlo Vagner refused Cameroon's Francois Omam Biyik the goals against Chile in a 1-1 draw, while the American referee Esfandiar Bahramast's penalty award put Norway, 2-1 winners over Brazil, through at the expense of Morocco.

"We are confident the referees take their decisions in good faith and those decisions are definitive," said a FIFA spokesman, Keith Cooper. "Fifa is satisfied with the way the rules are being applied and feels the refereeing is of a high standard."

Despite Morocco beating Scotland 3-0, Norway went through when the Chelsea striker Tore Andre Flo was adjudged to have been brought down in the area by Junior Baiano. Kjetil Rekdal hammered home the penalty with two minutes remaining.

The victory was all the sweeter for Norwegians, after their team had been criticised for an unimpressive kick-and-chase style following draws against Morocco and Scotland. One Swedish newspaper last week branded the team a "shame for the whole Nordic region". After Tuesday's game, Brazil's coach Mario Zagallo described Norway as "anti-football".

Vagner's Gong said "criticisms of Norwegian play will continue. We've beaten them before and

that didn't silence them. No one likes our long passes."

Meanwhile, there was pride in Morocco after their team's 3-0 win over Scotland, which was worthless thanks to Norway's win. Le Matin du Sahara declared: "Glory to the Lions of the Atlas - a penalty generously given three minutes from the end gives the advance to Norway over Brazil and deprives the National XI of a largely merited qualification [for the second round]."

After Rekdal's spot-kick sealed Norway's passage into the next phase, Brazil's coach Mario Zagallo commented: "I don't have a problem with the referees but FIFA does."

Flo insisted: "It was a clear penalty. I felt him pull me and the only surprise was how long the referee took to decide. I thought if this is not a penalty then I will just go mad."

THE GLOBAL GAME

WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

NORWEGIANS YESTERDAY acclaimed their team's 2-1 World Cup victory over Brazil as one of the nation's greatest sporting feats.

"The miracle!" Norway's biggest selling daily *Vardens Gang* said in a headline over a picture of Kjetil Rekdal, the scorer of Norway's second goal from a disputed penalty in the 89th minute. "Now anything can happen."

"Thanks!" Dagbladet said in a one-word headline over a picture of Rekdal and other players.

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30/WORLD CUP

Equality no use to South Africans

BY ALASTAIR MACDONALD
at Parc Lescure, Bordeaux

South Africa
Bartlett 19, pen 90
Saudi Arabia
Al-Jaber pen 45, Al-Thnyyan pen 73
Att: 34,500

SOUTH AFRICA failed in their last-ditch attempt to stay in the World Cup yesterday when they could only draw 2-2 with an already eliminated Saudi Arabia side.

The match featured three penalties, two to the Saudis and one to South Africa. Shaun Bartlett raised South African hopes of the win they needed to have any chance of overtaking Denmark for second place in Group C with a sweet left-foot drive from a tight angle in the 19th minute, latching on to a long ball from the deep. But Sami Al-Jaber made it 1-1 with a penalty on the stroke of half-time and the Saudis took the lead with 17 minutes to go when their captain, Youssef Al-Thnyyan, converted their second spot-kick.

The South Africans salvaged some pride when they were awarded the third penalty of the game in the last minute. Bartlett took the kick to collect his second goal of the game.

South Africa, using their physical power to force past the lighter Saudis, had much the better of the first half and Benedict McCarthy had several good chances stopped by the athletic goalkeeper, Mohammed Al-Daye, or blocked by a sometimes stretched but nimble Saudi defence well marshalled by Abdullah Zahrani.

Shortly before half-time, however, their repeated penetrating runs into the box brought their rewards when the imposing Marseilles defender Pierre Issa was adjudged by the Chilean referee to have brought down Al-Thnyyan.

Al-Jaber, the chief tormentor of the South African defence, stepped up to stroke home the spot-kick past Hans Vonk for the Saudis' first goal of the tournament. They had let in four against France and one against Denmark.

South Africa's French coach, Philippe Troussier, sent on Jerry Sikkosana for McCarthy at half-

time and replaced the defender Willem Jackson with the more attacking Delron Buckley. That nearly paid dividends when Buckley surged down the park from the half-way line, brushing aside a series of challenges before finding himself blocked in the box.

The South Africans, as before, had the best of the pressure in the second half but the winner would not come. Zehrani got up well to head clear just in front of Bartlett's searching head in the 68th minute but Al-Daye in goal was rarely tested.

The Saudis continued to be dangerous on the break and when the substitute Ibrahim Al-Shahrani was felled in the box - again by Issa - the 34-year-old Al-Thnyyan, winning his 88th cap, stepped up to convert the penalty. But they were denied a win by Bartlett's last-minute equaliser.

Troussier said there were lessons to be learned from South Africa's failure to reach the second round. "We have time after this World Cup to sit down and to recall the lessons. We can talk about everything," the Frenchman said.

"It was a great experience for everybody," Troussier added. "It was a very great opportunity for South Africa to take its potential in front of the world."

"Now we are finished. We need to accept the result. We finished with two points. It's not a bad World Cup," he added. "We expected more. It was not the case. We need to accept it, we need to continue to work and believe in our potential."

The Saudi midfielder, Nawaf Al-Temiyat, said: "We feel we had a very good match. The result is very honourable. I thank our supporters. It will be better next time."

SOUTH AFRICA: Vonk (Heerenveen); Fish (Bolton), Issa (Marseille), Jackson (Orlando Pirates), Nyasulu (St Gallen), Radebe (Leeds), Mkhalele (Kapteinor), Mkhalele (Fenerbahce), Fortune (Adelco Madrid), Bardsley (Cape Town Spurs), McCarthy (Aston Villa), Al-Jaber (Al-Hilal), Al-Thnyyan (Al-Shabab), Al-Thnyyan (Al-Hilal), Substitutes: Al-Shahrani (Al-Hilal) for Al-Menhajel, 65; Al-Minhajel (Al-Nasr) for Al-Thnyyan, 61. Referee: M Sanchez Yanez (Chile).



France's Robert Pirès (right) beats Allan Nielsen to the ball in yesterday's 2-1 victory against Denmark

David Ashdown

France forge a capital alliance

THERE WERE accusations of anti-English sentiments on the part of Aimé Jacquet following his stubborn refusal to incorporate Eric Cantona and David Ginola, two of the Premiership's favourite Frenchmen, into his plans over the past few years, but yesterday was proof that it was strictly business and nothing personal.

In selecting Frank Leboeuf alongside Marcel Desailly, soon to be partners in the centre of the Chelsea defence, the France coach assured himself of a warm welcome next time he wanders down the King's Road, while Patrick Vieira's unexpected call-up to play with his Ar-

Adam Szreter on the London-based players at the heart of the hosts' success

senal club-mate Emmanuel Petit in the French midfield means Jacquet should also be safe to roam the streets of Finsbury Park at night, should he so desire.

Even the French colours are designed to make Arsenal and Chelsea players feel at home, while just to add a little more spice to the proceedings for Chelsea fans there was also Brian Laudrup. But as befits the Double winners, it was Arsenal who took most of the honours.

Jacquet's decision to announce the French team the day before the game had provided Vieira with a very special 22nd birthday present on Tuesday. Vieira was quickly into his considerable stride too, with a powerful shot after just five minutes.

But Vieira would not be Vieira without picking up a booking. He duly managed it amid a yellow card frenzy from the Italian referee, Pierluigi Collina, for whom the first-round amnesty seemed to serve as

an excuse to book as many players as possible.

Petit was authoritative throughout, and it is becoming hard to imagine Jacquet leaving him out. His passing and ball-winning were exemplary, his goal was coolly taken, and he departed to a roar of acclaim shortly thereafter.

Leboeuf was given a relatively comfortable ride by Laudrup, with one notable exception when the former Rangers striker left him for dead. Desailly did not put a foot wrong all afternoon and Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, will have been pleased with the performance of his new-look defence.

Batistuta on verge of scoring record

GABRIEL BATISTUTA will go into Argentina's Group H match against Croatia tomorrow on the verge of setting a new Argentine World Cup scoring record. His hat-trick in the 5-0 rout of Jamaica in Paris on Sunday helped him equal the record of eight goals, held jointly by Diego Maradona and Guillermo Stabile, top scorers in the inaugural tournament in Uruguay in 1930.

"I didn't realise I'd equalled the record. I go out to score goals, but I don't go out thinking about records," the Fiorentina striker said. "I'm playing for the team. If I've got four goals it's because the team are playing well." Batistuta said at Argentina's World Cup camp outside St Etienne. "I didn't come here to be the top scorer or the best player of the tournament. I came here to win the World Cup with Argentina."

Batistuta, who also scored four goals in the 1994 finals, is the joint leading marksman after two matches, having scored in Argentina's 1-0 victory over Japan before his hat-trick against the Jamaicans, when Ariel Ortega scored the first two.

Batistuta was the second Argentine to score a World Cup hat-trick on his debut, when he hit three goals against Greece in the 4-0 win in Boston four years ago, after Stabile's treble against Mexico in a 6-3 victory in 1930, but has said that he was not out to prove anything to his national coach, Daniel Passarella.

Batistuta has played his way back into Passarella's team after being overlooked for a year. "I didn't come here for revenge. I was out of the team for a year, but I never thought that I needed revenge. I'm happy that I'm in form and well here," said Batistuta, the fourth man to hit two World Cup hat-tricks and the first in successive finals.

Although he is Argentina's all-time record scorer with 47 goals in 63 internationals, Batistuta will never beat one record - Stabile's average of goals per game. Stabile played only four times for Argentina, all during the 1930 tournament, scoring eight goals.

The other player topping the scoring list at France '98, Italy's Christian Vieri, believes goalmouth action speaks louder than words. Two weeks into the World Cup, the Atletico Madrid forward also has four goals and has found the net in all three of the matches that Italy have played.

He has eclipsed Roberto Baggio and Alessandro Del Piero to become the most talked-about forward in the Italian camp, but Vieri himself is saying little. "How many goals do you promise to score in the next round?" one reporter asked after Vieri's powerful header had set Italy on their way to a 2-1 defeat of Austria on Tuesday. "None. I don't make promises," Vieri replied.

"Did you ever dream you'd start the World Cup like this?" ventured another. "I don't dream," responded Vieri before moving on.

So long as Vieri continues to prosper at the World Cup, Italians will not care that the man they have christened "the ice giant" keeps himself to himself.

"He's kept something with him from his long sojourn in Australia - a distrust of conversation," noted the *Gazzetta dello Sport* newspaper this week. "He sticks to the bare essentials, just like he does on the pitch."

The brusque Vieri cuts an odd figure at Italy's training camp where most of his team-mates, in good Italian tradition, never tire of their own voices and are willing to chat with reporters from morning to night.

Perhaps his experience last season, when he was dropped by the Atletico coach, Radomir Antic, and fined for criticising tactics, has made him wary of speaking his mind.

One of only two foreign-based players in Cesare Maldini's squad, Vieri is one something of a nomad. Born to a French mother and an Italian father - also a professional footballer - Vieri was brought up in Australia and did not move to Italy until the mid-1980s.

Entrenched in Agincourt for battle

INEEDED to forget. My first thought was of joining the French Foreign Legion. But I only wanted to forget for a day or two, not the next 20 years. So I went for a spin in the country north of Paris instead, with my friends Denis and Virginie.

And the thing about the tranquil and fertile plains of Picardy and the Pas-de-Calais, where cows graze and the corn ripens in the sun, is that they are, or have been, bloody killing fields, replete with carnage and heaps of bodies 6ft high. In a way, the so-called "Hundred Years War" is a bit of an understatement. Thousand Years War would be closer to it. Ever since the days of Asterix, the French and the English have been battling one another, in fact before they knew they were French and English. The Channel has been a convenient centre-line across which innumerable armies have travelled in either direction, sometimes even without a ticket for the match.

Our first stop was at Crécy, where Edward III and his rough band of archers and pikemen annihilated the *crème de la crème* of the French aristocracy back in 1346. The ancestors of Virginie's husband (or "future ex" as she calls him) apparently fought here - her full name is Virginie de Roquigny du Fyvel - but, as I pointed out to her, they must have been some of the few cowards who actually ran off instead of heroically trouting up to English steel and yew. "That would be just like him," she said. "And that is how they became aristocrats - because there was no one else left at the time."

We rolled on to Agincourt (known as *Agnincourt* to the locals), fast forwarding to 1415, where a very similar scene was replayed, as Henry V and his "happy few, my band of brothers", accounted for approximately 10,000 men of the army of Charles VI (who stayed behind in Paris). The moral for the England



ANDY
MARTIN
AT LARGE IN
FRANCE



team as they head towards Lens, to confront the Colombians, is that we have never lost in the north of France. For long periods, indeed, this wouldn't even have counted as an away game - this is our back yard.

Denis (a psychologist who works in Paris) suggested, as we drove from the site of one massacre to another, that "football is simply war conducted by other means". George Orwell saw things along these lines too, and thought it was therefore a terrible game that we should stop playing. Denis, in contrast, dismisses all that as mere political cor-

rectness. He fears that we may have been behaving too timidly on the field and that that single yellow card should be a "sea of red."

"You see what I mean means when he says that 'the crunching tackle is better than sex' - with sexual liberation, none of these players is frustrated. Football is all to do with Thanatos (death) not Eros. The instinct for aggression - the desire for domination - is still repressed. Football is a natural outlet for it."

The gory lesson of history for Hoddle, in this part of France, would seem to be as follows: dig in, draw

in the over-excitable Latin cavaliers dreaming of glorious individual exploits, soften them up with longbows - or long balls over their heads - then send in the pikemen (which our *Guide Bleu* describes as "insensible brutes") to finish them off. The English also made good use of the Welsh (Owen), and the Gascons (Gascogne), who didn't like the French either. We used to train up beforehand by fighting the Scots, but it's too late for that.


We were thinking of heading on over the border to Waterloo, to round off our tour of the battlefields, but we agreed that although we won that one, the fact that the Prussians had to intervene to save Wellington from otherwise certain defeat by Napoleon, was not such a good omen. And then Germany intervened anyway.

When we stopped off at the Charles VI Bar in Agincourt to refuel, Denis and I were taken for Ger-

mans by one of the locals, who, like the French before Agincourt, had probably drunk too much. Henri was reliving the Second World War at the time and accused Virginie of being a *solo* for collaborating with the "Bosch", who killed his father.

We explained several times that we were not in fact Germans and the message finally sank in. "You're English! That's worse than you kill our men - and you take our women too." He finally staggered off, trying to get Virginie to go with him, on the grounds that he was a true Frenchman. "I will never forget," he said, which was ironic, considering he couldn't remember his way home.

There may not be a lesson for Glenn Hoddle there, but I began to understand why it was that Madame Claude Delcasse's plan to put up a statue to Shakespeare in the square in front of the museum was running into a lot of entrenched local opposition.



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THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO FRANCE 98

France 2 Denmark 1

GROUP C: STADE GERLAND, LYONS. ATTENDANCE: 45,300

Goals: Djorkaeff pen 13, Petit 56
Yellow cards: 2 (Dioné, Vieira)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 6
Offside: 2
Free-kicks (against): 17
Coach: Aimé Jacquet

Goals: M Laudrup pen 42
Yellow cards: 2 (Colding, Tøfting)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 1
Offside: 4
Free-kicks (against): 13
Coach: Bo Johansson

S Africa 2 S Arabia 2

GROUP C: PARC LESCURE, BORDEAUX. ATTENDANCE: 34,500

Goals: Bartlett 18, pen 90
Yellow cards: 2 (Fortune, Radebe)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 7
Offside: 5
Free-kicks (against): 14
Coach: Philippe Troussier

Goals: Al-Jaber pen 45, Al-Thinyan 73 pen
Yellow cards: 1 (K Al-Owairan)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 5
Offside: 3
Free-kicks (against): 8
Coach: Mohammad Al-Kharashi

Brazil 1 Norway 2

GROUP D: STADE FELIX-BOLLART, LENS. KICK-OFF: 20.00 BST

Goal: Bebeto 78
Yellow cards: 0
Red cards: 0
Corners: 4
Offside: 4
Free-kicks (against): 8
Coach: Mario Zagallo

Goals: T A Flo 83, Rekdal pen 89
Yellow cards: 2 (Leonhardsen, Mykland)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 4
Offside: 1
Free-kicks (against): 20
Coach: Egil Olsen

Running commentary

1 min: Rekdal blazes over from 20 yards.
4 min: Leonhardsen breaks into the Brazilian box, first touch lets him down.
11 min: Denilson fires in shot from the left edge of the area but it goes wide.
14 min: Cafu shoots wide.
24 min: Eggen makes crucial challenge on Ronaldo with the No 9 heading for goal.
27 min: Leonhardsen screws a left-foot shot wide from 15 yards.
28 min: Stinging shot by Tore Andre Flo flies straight into Taffarel's arms.
34 min: Rekdal shoots powerfully from 25 yards but too high.

39 min: Ronaldo wins free-kick 25 yards out. Leonardo curls over harmlessly over.
50 min: Eggen meets Bjørnneby corner but cannot control header.
52 min: Leonhardsen's foul on Leonardo brings first yellow card of match.
58 min: Mykland is second Norwegian cautioned after foul on Roberto Carlos.
73 min: Tore Andre Flo drags shot wide.
78 min: Bebeto heads Brazil into the lead.
83 min: Tore Andre Flo strikes a well-placed shot past Taffarel to equalise.
89 min: Norway snatch victory after T A Flo wins questionable penalty. Rekdal converts.

Scotland 0 Morocco 3

GROUP D: STADE MUNICIPAL, TOULOUSE. KICK-OFF: 20.00 BST

Goals: 0
Yellow cards: 1 (Gallacher)
Red cards: 1 (Burley)
Corners: 5
Offside: 3
Free-kicks (against): 10
Coach: Craig Brown

Goals: Bassir 22, 84 Hadda 47
Yellow cards: 1 (Chippo)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 1
Offside: 4
Free-kicks (against): 16
Coach: Henri Michel

Running commentary

5 min: Leighton quick off line for essential punch over Hendry's head.
8 min: Vulnerability in air of Benzekri shown as he misses Scotland's first corner.
14 min: Benzekri fails to intercept Scottish attack. Durie unable to take advantage.
20 min: Yellow card Gallacher (pushing and pulling with Abram).
21 min: Long ball by El Khalel wrongfoots Hendry. Bassir takes it up and drives in shot between Leighton and near post.
38 min: Unpredictable Benzekri turns away Burley's searching shot then flaps at corner.

44 min: Hendry makes exceptional tackle as Bassir breaks away at frightening speed.
46 min: Another long ball catches out Scotland. Hadda loses Weir. Shot tipped upwards by Leighton but only to drop under crossbar.
53 min: Red card Burley, tackle from behind.
65 min: Hendry risks first excursion from defence. Benzekri untroubled.
79 min: Azzouzi cleverly escapes tackles in Scottish penalty area.
80 min: Yellow card Chippo.
84 min: Bassir easily flicks ball over Boyd, then strikes his second goal in off Hendry.

GOALSCORERS

FOUR GOALS
GROUP B: Christian Vieri (Italy); GROUP H: Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina).

THREE GOALS
GROUP B: Marcello Salis (Chile); GROUP C: Thierry Henry (France).

TWO GOALS
GROUP A: Bebeto (Brazil); Abdejalil Hachimi (Morocco); GROUP D: Roberto Baggio (Italy); GROUP E: Shunsuke Nakamura (Japan); GROUP F: Luis Hernandez (Mexico); GROUP G: Luis Hernandez (Mexico); GROUP H: Dariusz Szlender (Poland); GROUP I: Dariusz Szlender (Poland).

ONE GOAL
GROUP A: Cesar Sampaio (Brazil); GROUP B: Christian Vieri (Italy); GROUP C: Christian Vieri (Italy); GROUP D: Roberto Baggio (Italy); GROUP E: Shunsuke Nakamura (Japan); GROUP F: Luis Hernandez (Mexico); GROUP G: Luis Hernandez (Mexico); GROUP H: Dariusz Szlender (Poland); GROUP I: Dariusz Szlender (Poland).

RED AND YELLOW CARDS

RED CARDS - 15
GROUP A: Craig Burley (Scotland); GROUP B: Christian Vieri (Italy); GROUP C: Christian Vieri (Italy); GROUP D: Roberto Baggio (Italy); GROUP E: Shunsuke Nakamura (Japan); GROUP F: Luis Hernandez (Mexico); GROUP G: Luis Hernandez (Mexico); GROUP H: Dariusz Szlender (Poland); GROUP I: Dariusz Szlender (Poland).

YELLOW CARDS - 135
GROUP A: Cesar Sampaio (Brazil); GROUP B: Christian Vieri (Italy); GROUP C: Christian Vieri (Italy); GROUP D: Roberto Baggio (Italy); GROUP E: Shunsuke Nakamura (Japan); GROUP F: Luis Hernandez (Mexico); GROUP G: Luis Hernandez (Mexico); GROUP H: Dariusz Szlender (Poland); GROUP I: Dariusz Szlender (Poland).

WORLD CUP BETTING

	C	H	I	S	T
Netherlands	69	48	12	49	49
Denmark	125	52	52	52	125
South Africa	64	64	51	64	64

	C	H	I	S	T
Germany	29	29	14	14	14
France	41	103	41	72	41
Iran	61	61	71	71	71

IAN DAVIES' SELECTIONS

	score	1st goal
1 Netherlands 3-1	Bergkamp	
2 Belgium 3-0	Wilmots	
3 Germany 2-0	Bierhoff	
4 Yugoslavia 2-0	Bierhoff	

TODAY'S MATCHES

Netherlands v Mexico

GROUP E: STADE GIFFROY GUICHARD, ST ETIENNE. KICK-OFF: 15.00 BST

NUMAN OVERMARS BLANCO SANCHEZ
DAVIES HERNANDEZ DAVIDO
F DE BOER COCU GARCIA ASPES
VAN DER SAAR PALENCIA TERRAZAS CAMPOS
STAM BERGKAMP ORDOALES
JONK RANERIZ
WINTER R DE BOER PROBABLE TEAMS
WEATHER: Chance of a thunderstorm. Temperature: 24C
REFEREE: ABDUL RAHMAN AL-ZED (SAUDI ARABIA)
TV LIVE: BBC1 2.45. HIGHLIGHTS: BBC1 11.30

TEAM NEWS
NETHERLANDS: Patrick Kluivert is still suspended so Philip Cocu will again support Dennis Bergkamp. Ronald de Boer, Wim Jonk and Clarence Seedorf fight for two places in midfield.
MEXICO: Luis Hernandez, who scored twice against South Korea, has an ankle injury. Ricardo Pelaez may replace him.

Belgium v S Korea

GROUP E: PARC DES PRINCES, PARIS. KICK-OFF: 15.00 BST

BORJELMANS VAN KERCKHOVEN KIM DO-KUEN LEE SANG-HUN
VIDOVIC OLIVEIRA CHOI YONG-SOO HONG MYUNG-BO
WILMOTS NILIS HA SEOK-JU KIM BYUNG-JI
STALENS SCIFO KIM TEA-YOUNG KIM BYUNG-JI
DEPLANDRE VAN DER ELST YOO SANG-CHUL
PROBABLE TEAMS
WEATHER: Chance of thunderstorms. Temperature: 22C
REFEREE: M REZENDE DE FREITAS (BRAZIL)
TV LIVE: EUROSPORT 2.50. HIGHLIGHTS: BBC1 11.30

TEAM NEWS
BELGIUM: Danny Boffin, who suffered a knee injury against Mexico, is out while goalkeeper Filip De Wilde has a groin strain that could force him to make way for Philippe Vande Walle. Franky Van der Elst is also doubtful.
SOUTH KOREA: Kim Pyung-seok, their new coach, has promised a more attacking formation than the one that lost 5-0 to the Netherlands on Saturday.
Previous meetings: 12 June 1990 (Mexico, WC final); Belgium 2 South Korea 0

Germany v Iran

GROUP F: STADE DE LA MOISSON, MONTPELLIER. KICK-OFF: 20.00 BST

HEINRICH HELMER ZARINCHEN
THON MAHMOUDIA KHAKPOUR
KOPKE KUNSMANN AZIZI MOHAMMADKHAJANI
MATTHIAS BERNHOF DAEI PASHAZADEH
WÖRNIS INÖLLER ESTEL MINWAD CHAL
TARNAT PROBABLE TEAMS
WEATHER: Partly cloudy. Temperature: 26C
REFEREE: E GONZALEZ CHAVEZ (PARAGUAY)
TV LIVE: ITV 7.50. HIGHLIGHTS: BBC1 11.30

TEAM NEWS
GERMANY: Jürgen Klinsmann is fit after being taken off on a stretcher against Yugoslavia on Sunday. So Steffen Freund is their only worry with his stomach muscles. Lothar Matthäus starts for the first time at the tournament while Dietmar Hamann and Jens Jeremies are expected to be dropped in favour of Olaf Thon and Thomas Helmer.
IRAN: No major injury worries. No previous meetings.

USA v Yugoslavia

GROUP F: STADE DE LA BEAUJOIRE, NANTES. KICK-OFF: 20.00 BST

MOORE JONES JOKANOVIC
POPE RAMOS MILOSAVIC
FRIEDEL MERTENSE STAMBOVIC
DOOLEY HEIDUK MIRALOVIC
REGIS KEYNA JUSOVIC
PROBABLE TEAMS
WEATHER: Clear. Temperature: 21C
REFEREE: S GHANDOUR (EGYPT)
TV LIVE: EUROSPORT 7.50. HIGHLIGHTS: BBC1 11.30

TEAM NEWS
USA: Brad Friedel replaces Casey Keller in goal and some of the younger squad members are likely to get a run-out.
YUGOSLAVIA: Darko Kosevich is definitely out with a thigh strain. Zeljko Petrovic has a leg muscle problem and defender Miroslav Djurdjic has an injured right calf. Defender Zoran Mitrovic should be back after missing Saturday's 2-2 draw with Germany, probably replacing Stobodan Komljenovic.
Previous meetings: 25 Nov 1996 (Olympics); USA 1 Yugoslavia 3

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Group A

Brazil 2	Scotland 1	(St Denis)
Morocco 2	Norway 2	(Montpellier)
Scotland 1	Norway 1	(Bordeaux)
Brazil 3	Morocco 0	(Nantes)
Scotland 0	Morocco 3	(St Etienne)
Brazil 1	Norway 2	(Marseille)

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 Brazil	3	2	0	1	6	3	6	+3
2 Norway	3	1	2	0	5	4	5	+1
3 Morocco	3	1	1	1	5	5	4	0
4 Scotland	3	0	1	2	2	6	1	-4

Group B

Italy 2	Chile 2	(Bordeaux)
Cameroon 1	Austria 1	(Toulouse)
Chile 1	Austria 1	(St Etienne)
Italy 3	Cameroon 0	(Montpellier)
Italy 2	Austria 1	(Nantes)
Chile 1	Cameroon 1	(St Denis)

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 Italy	3	2	1	0	7	3	7	+4
2 Chile	3	0	3	0	4	4	3	0
3 Austria	3	0	2	1	3	4	2	-1
4 Cameroon	3	0	2	1	2	5	2	-3

Group C

Saudi Arabia 0	Denmark 1	(Lens)
France 3	South Africa 0	(Marseille)
South Africa 1	Denmark 1	(Toulouse)
France 4	Saudi Arabia 0	(St Denis)
France 2	Denmark 1	(Lyons)
South Africa 2	Saudi Arabia 2	(Bordeaux)

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 France	3	3	0	0	9	1	9	+8
2 Denmark	3	1	1	1	3	3	4	0
3 S Africa	3	0	2	1	3	6	2	-3
4 S Arabia	3	0	1	2	2	7	1	-5

Group D

Paraguay 0	Bulgaria 0	(Montpellier)
Spain 2	Nigeria 3	(Nantes)
Nigeria 1	Bulgaria 0	(Paris)
Spain 0	Paraguay 0	(St Etienne)
Spain v Bulgaria		(Lens)
Nigeria v Paraguay		(Toulouse)

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 Nigeria	2	2	0	0	4	2	6	+2
2 Paraguay	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
3 Spain	2	0	1	1	2	3	1	-1
4 Bulgaria	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	-1

Group E

South Korea 1	Mexico 3	(Lyons)
Netherlands 0	Belgium 0	(St Denis)
Belgium 2	Mexico 2	(Bordeaux)
Netherlands 5	S Korea 0	(Marseille)
Netherlands v Mexico		(St Etienne, 15.00)
Belgium v South Korea		(Paris, 15.00)

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 Netherlands	2	1	1	0	5	0	4	+5
2 Mexico	2	1	1	0	5	3	4	+2
3 Belgium	2	0	2	0	2	2	2	0
4 S Korea	2	0	0	2	1	8	0	-7

Group F

Yugoslavia 1	Iran 0	(St Etienne)
Germany 2	USA 0	(Paris)
Germany 2	Yugoslavia 2	(Lens)
USA 1	Iran 2	(Lyons)
Germany v Iran		(Montpellier, 20.00)
USA v Yugoslavia		(Nantes, 20.00)

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 Germany	2	1	1	0	4	2	4	+2
2 Yugoslavia	2	1	1	0	3	2	4	+1
3 Iran	2	1	0	1	2	2	3	0
4 USA	2	0	0	2	1	4	0	-3

Group G

England 2	Tunisia 0	(Marseille)
Romania 1	Colombia 0	(Lyons)
Colombia 1	Tunisia 0	(Montpellier)
Romania 2	England 1	(Toulouse)
Romania v Tunisia		(St Denis, 20.00)
Colombia v England		(Lens, 20.00)

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 Romania	2	2	0	0	3	1	6	+2
2 England	2	1	0	1	3	2	3	+1
3 Colombia	2	1	0	1	1	1	3	0
4 Tunisia	2	0	0	2	0	3	0	-3

Group H

Argentina 1	Japan 0	(Toulouse)
Jamaica 1	Croatia 3	(Lens)
Japan 0	Croatia 1	(Nantes)
Argentina 5	Jamaica 0	(Paris)
Argentina v Croatia		(Bordeaux, 15.00)
Japan v Jamaica		(Lyons, 15.00)

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 Argentina	2	2	0	0	6	0	6	+6
2 Croatia	2	2	0	0	4	1	6	+3
3 Japan	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	-2
4 Jamaica	2	0	0	2	1	8	0	-7

THE top two teams in each group qualify for the second round. Qualification decided by (in order): Points, goal difference, number of goals scored, outcome of encounter between two sides, drawing lots. (If France beat Denmark 3-0 and South Africa beat Saudi Arabia 1-0, Denmark and South Africa will tie on points, goal difference and goals scored. Their game was also a 1-1 draw and qualification will be decided by lots).

Second round

Sat 27 June Italy v Norway	(Marseille, 15.30)
Sat 27 June Brazil v Chile	(Paris, 20.00)
Sun 28 June France v Runner-up D	(Lens, 15.30)
Sun 28 June Nigeria v Denmark	(St Denis, 20.00)
Mon 29 June Winner E v Runner-up E	(Montpellier, 15.30)
Mon 29 June Winner F v Runner-up F	(Toulouse, 20.00)
Tue 30 June Winner G v Runner-up G	(Bordeaux, 15.30)
Tue 30 June Winner H v Runner-up H	(St Etienne, 20.00)

Quarter-finals

Fri 3 July Marseille winner v Lens winner	(St Denis, 15.30)
Fri 3 July Paris winner v St Denis winner	(Nantes, 20.00)
Sat 4 July Toulouse winner v St Etienne winner	(Marseille, 15.30)
Sat 4 July Montpellier winner v Bordeaux winner	(Lyons, 20.00)

Semi-finals

Tue 7 July Nantes winner v Marseille winner	(Marseille, 20.00)
Wed 8 July St Denis winner v Lyons winner	(St Denis, 20.00)

Third place play-off

Saturday 11 July	(Paris, 20.00)
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Final

Sunday 12 July	(St Denis, 20.00)
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SPORT

HENMAN KEEPS HOPES ALIVE P23 • SCOTLAND REFLECT P28

Petit at helm of French cruise

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
at Stade Gerland, LyonsFrance
Djorkaeff pen 13, Petit 56
Denmark
M Laudrup pen 42
Att: 43,500

FRANCE B comfortably defeated a lively but limited Danish team yesterday to claim full points in Group C and side-step an awkward last-16 game against Nigeria. Emmanuel Petit won the match with a fear-some shot through a thicket of legs in the 56th minute, the Arsenal midfielder's first goal in French blue.

The teams exchanged penalties in the first half, then settled down to a pleasantly meaningless last 45 minutes, unthreatened by the course of events in Bordeaux between South Africa and Saudi Arabia.

What with suspensions, players rested and players on yellow cards, Aimé Jacquet started with only four of his regulars. If nothing else, the match proved that the French have strength in depth – all except in one position. David Trézéguet, the latest pretender to the vacant throne of French goalscorer, had a frustrating, unconvincing game. Stéphane Guivarch, soon to join Newcastle United, replaced the young Monaco forward for the final minutes. He will probably be the latest to try on the glass slipper (or boot) in France's first knockout match on Sunday.

Neither side needed more than a point but both attacked from the start: France vigorously; Denmark more cautiously. The Danes, apart from the Laudrup brothers,

lacked the imagination and first touch to trouble a sometimes flat French defence.

Going forward, the French second string were full of freshness and running. The Arsenal tandem, Petit and Patrick Vieira, patrolled in front of the back four, trying to stake a claim to a permanent place in the later rounds. Petit's goal apart, Vieira looked the more impressive of the two. Word from the French camp suggests, none the less, that Petit will start at the weekend.

The bigger tactical question for the French was who would fill the hole left by the suspended Zinedine Zidane. (Suspended but not disgraced in the eyes of the French fans. A large banner wished "Zizou" a happy 26th birthday.) Zidane, out for two games, was, in effect, replaced by three people: Robert Pires, Youri Djorkaeff and Bernard Diomède, switching positions just behind Trézéguet.

Diomède, usually a left wing-back for Auxerre, was easily the most menacing of the three, full of speed and trickery. He may have done enough to be included on Sunday.

France took the lead in the 12th minute. Djorkaeff narrowly beating Peter Schmeichel from the penalty spot after Trézéguet had been hauled down by Jes Høgh. Schmeichel dived full length to his right and got a hand to the ball but it spun into the corner of the goal.

The rest of the half was mostly France's. Diomède broke through on the left and centred to Vieira, who shot just over. Trézéguet was blocked by Schmeichel after a good run by Pires.



Denmark's Brian Laudrup (left) and the France midfielder Marcel Desailly fix their sights on the match ball in Lyons yesterday

Reuters

The Danes were busy in midfield but did little damage to the French rearguard, built around the forthcoming Stamford Bridge pairing of Frank Leboeuf and Marcel Desailly. The equaliser, in the 41st minute, came from a piece of quick thinking by Michael Laudrup after Petit had

brought him down on the edge of the D. The Ajax player took the free-kick while the French were still assembling and put Michael Schjønberg clear in the box. Vincent Candela wrestled him to the ground and – to wounded French protests – Mr Collina pointed to the spot. The elder of the Laudrup brother

completed the move he had started, beating Fabien Barthez with a scorching shot.

The Danes made a bright start to the second half but the French regained the lead after only 11 minutes. A left wing corner fell to Pires: his shot was beaten out by Schmeichel. The ball bounced off several legs be-

fore falling to Petit, who hit it first time through the crowded box. Schmeichel got a leg to the ball but it screamed past him into the net, leaving him kicking the turf in anger.

After that, the Danes – even Schmeichel – seemed content to settle for narrow defeat and a difficult game against

Nigeria in the next round.

A dipping free-kick by Stig Tøfting, substituting for Brian Laudrup, almost fooled Barthez in the dying minutes. The Monaco keeper was dragged into the net as he arched his back to hold on to the shot but he held the ball just the right side of the line.

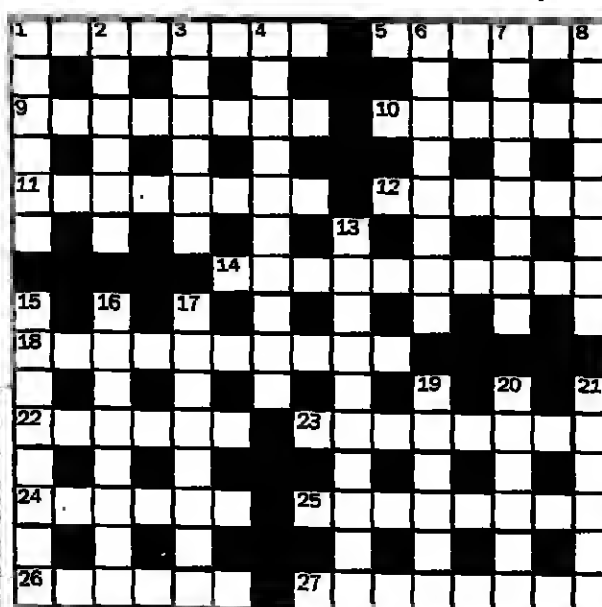
FRANCE (4-2-3-1): Barthez (goalkeeper); Karembeu (left back); Lescarret (centre back); Desailly (centre back); Laudrup (right back); Petit (left wing); Pires (right wing); Candela (right wing); Trézéguet (striker). DENMARK (4-2-3-1): Schjønberg (goalkeeper); Høgh (left back); Høgh (centre back); Høgh (centre back); Høgh (right back); Høgh (left wing); Høgh (right wing); Høgh (right wing); Høgh (striker). Referee: P. Collina (Italy).

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3646, Thursday 25 June

By Mase

Wednesday's solution



- ACROSS**
- Dexterity gets learner fired. Complaint must follow (8)
 - Slight old fellow has to make do (6)
 - Leak caused by severe conditions (8)
 - Crowds calling for Member in the House? (6)
 - Washes 100 glasses audibly (8)
 - One to watch? Somebody without note? (6)
 - Looking bright, with lens capturing one cloud (10)
 - Quaint and virtually dated, maybe (10)
 - Bear plate back? (6)
 - Rejected complete nonsense about Italian pancake (8)
 - Corrects extremities about State (6)
 - Increasingly sober on a more regular basis (8)
 - Prepares grilled trout on Sunday (6)
 - A figure produced by writer with epithet added (8)
- DOWN**
- Turn South on boat (6)
 - One following suit – firm feature of bridge (6)
 - Edging forward, fall in drink (6)
 - Scenario: rising mountain in wild scenery (10)
 - Help with cuts, finding tree rigid (5, 3)
 - Spain? Great! I'm off to settle abroad (8)
 - Woman's exacting part (8)
 - Item for putting in hock (4, 6)
 - A bird (domesticated) with a comb (8)
 - Grinding pace gets tail-enders in marathon event (8)
 - Queen's in smoother blue (8)
 - Sound tight (6)
 - Dashing unknown's entered the dance (6)
 - Very dry? Slip up into bar (6)

Brazil play down loss

BRAZIL COACH, Mario Zagallo, is still confident his team will win the World Cup, dismissing Tuesday's 2-1 defeat to Norway as just one defeat on the way to the title.

But the defending world champions' weaknesses were put on clear display for other teams, including Saturday's second-round opponents Chile, to study. The loss by Norway showed that, when faced by a massed defence, Brazil quickly run out of ideas. Equally clear is the vulnerability at the back, where the central defender, Junior Baiano is looking to be the weak link.

The former Werder Bremen player was turned inside out by Tore Andre Flo for Norway's equaliser, just as he was by Claudio Lopez for the goal that gave Argentina a 1-0 win over Brazil in a friendly in April.

The defender, whose repu-

tation for rash challenges and red cards is a constant worry for Brazilian fans, then gave away the controversial penalty which led to Norway's winner. The thought of the shaky defence facing the Chilean striking partnership of Marcelo Salas and Ivan Zamorano is worrying for Brazil.

Zagallo, who has been involved in all of Brazil's previous four titles as either player (twice), coach (once) and assistant coach (once), was determined not to be downhearted by his side's third defeat this year. Both he and the players pointed out that Brazil had already qualified and did not have to win and that they had been given a lesson which needed to be learned.

The team took a good 45 minutes to emerge from the dressing-room after the match and their words appeared to have

been well rehearsed. "We lost when we could afford to," Zagallo said. "This was the right time to lose. We can't lose in the next stage. This was a lesson for us that we must not relax. The team felt they had won the game and they lost concentration. It can't happen again."

Zagallo described the team's performance as satisfactory even though their lack of inspiration in midfield was startling. The hugely gifted Rivaldo routinely picked up the ball, moved forward a few steps, put his foot on it and then flicked it square. Denilson was as ineffective for the most of the game.

"The service was so bad that Ronaldo barely got a look in – and he complained about it afterwards. 'I'm not worried about not scoring,' he said. 'What worries me is that the ball is not getting to me as it should be.'"

Flo favours Chelsea's carousel

THERE CANNOT be too many strikers in the world who have scored three goals in two victories over Brazil, but who cannot guarantee a place in their club side. But that is exactly the position in which Norway's Tore Andre Flo finds himself.

Flo scored twice in Norway's 4-2 victory over Brazil last year and repeated the feat again on Tuesday by scoring the equaliser and then earning the penalty that beat the world champions 2-1.

But while Flo is a national hero at home, having scored 13 goals in 28 internationals, he is

merely another member of the squad at his club, Chelsea. The Chelsea player-manager, Gianluca Vialli, like his predecessor Ruud Gullit, has used a policy of rotating the strikers, with Flo taking turns in attack with Mark Hughes and Gianfranco Zola and Vialli himself. Chelsea have also recently added Denmark's Brian Laudrup and Italy's Pierluigi Casiraghi to their rota of forwards.

Even scoring two excellent early goals to set the London side on the way to a European Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-final victory over Real Betis in

Seville could not secure his place at Stamford Bridge. He did start the final against VfB Stuttgart but was replaced by Zola – who immediately scored the only goal of the game.

Flo, however, is unconcerned, especially with his mind firmly focused on a second-round World Cup meeting with Italy in Marseille on Saturday. Indeed the Chelsea situation may even have been beneficial. "Maybe I would have felt a bit tired here if I had played every game in England this season," Flo said. "I certainly don't feel tired now."

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THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

The great Chinese clean-up

President Clinton visits the city of Xian today. He wanted to see the 'real' China. So they swept away the dirt. And the hawkers. And the dissidents. And the great unwashed

BY TERESA POOLE

President Clinton arrives in the western Chinese city of Xian today, and it is just as well the authorities have laid on transport. The city's rickety motor-tricycle taxis have been banned from the freshly-cleaned streets during the visit, despite a public protest earlier this month by drivers furious at not being able to earn any money this week. One driver complained about police behaviour at the demonstration: "They broke the back window of my cab, and ripped the side sheeting," he said, pointing to the damage.

As for the city's four-wheeled taxi-drivers, they are a cantankerous lot at the moment. On two days during the final week of May, several hundred staged protests by parking their cars near one section of the historic Xian city wall and refusing to move. They were complaining about the high level of fees and taxes imposed by the city authorities. "There must be about 50 fees a year now; three kinds of insurance, anti-theft charges, parking fees, one set of charges this month, different charges next month... We've asked lawyers to act for us, but it is difficult to get a result," explained one woman driver.

This is the China which Mr Clinton will not see on his arrival in Xian, the first US President to visit the mainland since the June 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

After two decades of economic reform, the US President will find some things familiar, like Xian's many Kentucky Fried Chicken outlets and the ubiquitous sound of American pop music. But there are things Peking cannot bear to let the world see - the schisms and stresses of a corrupted, half-reformed Communist society. Neither will Mr Clinton's sanitised and pre-scripted ventures into "real China" give a convincing picture of the progress made by a nation which, 20 years ago, had barely emerged from Chairman Mao's insane Cultural Revolution.

The reality is a place where most people's lives have improved enormously, but which is much more volatile these days than either China's leaders or Mr Clinton want to admit. The much-needed reforms of Zhu Rongji, who took over as prime minister 100 days ago, are throwing tens of millions of people out of work, at a time when the economy is under strain from the Asian financial crisis. The huge number of laid-off workers from bankrupt state factories, the spoilt cadres about to be axed from China's bloated bureaucracy, the ordinary citizens who no longer believe in keeping quiet about their grievances - all these people are creating pockets of social instability in a brittle regime which has lost control of many areas of people's lives but exerts a vice-like grip on political expression.

Xian - once the imperial capital and now a heavily polluted, inland, industrial city - was chosen as the initial stop on the presidential itinerary so that the first television pictures beamed back to American viewers would be of Mr Clinton in a controversy-free environment. He will be met by a torch-lit Tang dynasty ceremony, and tomorrow tour the famous terracotta warriors. But Mr Clinton will be see-

ing a China which has been spruced up, sometimes to a ludicrous extent.

Out at the warrior site, for instance, the rather jolly street hawkers have been sent away, and by last week the authorities had shut down all the stalls selling animal skins and furs. "Americans don't like that sort of thing," explained one lady selling cold drinks. At the more sinister end of the scene-setting, anyone who possibly counts as a dissident figure in Xian has either been "persuaded" to leave town or is under close surveillance today.

It can be assumed that, as the presidential motorcade sweeps into town today, Mr Clinton will not run into the now frequent protests by the city's increasing number of unemployed and disgruntled workers. At the beginning of this month, it was the turn of about 200 men from the Number One Construction Company, demonstrating because they feared for their pensions if the state factory went bankrupt.

There have been several protests and demonstrations, this year and last year. It happens in many cities in China, it is very normal," said a Xian businessman, just returned from Peking.

Unemployment is the biggest challenge facing China as it tries to sort out hopelessly inefficient state-owned industries, such as the old chemical and steel factories of Xian. One outgoing government minister admitted recently that half the country's state factory workers - which would mean 37 million workers - were surplus to requirements, and many of them have already been laid off. Others are angry about overdue wages or unpaid pensions. "Officials in Xian are very afraid if some workers sit on the streets during Mr Clinton's visit," said one local.

When Mr Clinton visits a Chinese village tomorrow morning, he will meet smiling farmers boasting of record harvests. He will not venture to the East Gate of old Xian, where on most days about 800 unemployed peasants tout for casual work as carpenters, painters or builders, at a rate of 75p to £1.50 a day. Even China's officials admit to an astonishing 200 million surplus rural labourers.

But just as Mr Clinton will not see the instability of modern China, nor will he appreciate the aspects of Chinese life which leave one feeling optimistic. Needless to say, they are not always developments which the Chinese Communist Party endorses.

It is refreshing that many Chinese now feel more free to voice their complaints. (Free speech has not evolved enough, however, for this article to publish the names of some of the interviewees.) At the Famous Quality Snack Market, a government re-employment project which opened in December, laid-off workers get priority in renting small restaurant units.

But they are up in arms at the moment, after putting up 35,000 yuan (£3,000) each for a year's rent, only to find that the buildings are badly constructed, have no air-conditioning, and that no-one can

Continued on page eight



Gavin Heller/PHF

INSIDE	Letters	2	Law report	7	Film	11-15	Radio	23	EDUCATION & FAST TRACK
	Leaders and comment	3-5	Features	8-9	Fast Track	16-20	Satellite TV	23	
	Obituaries	6-7	Arts	10	Listings	21-22	Today's TV	24	

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2/COMMENT AND LETTERS

Search for the brat within you

ON BALANCE, I think we'll be giving this weekend's Personal Development Show at Olympia a miss. I realise that, from tomorrow onwards, over 10,000 people are expected and that, if you add to that figure the various inner children, secret warriors, goddesses within, shadows, mirrors and alternative personalities that each visitor will be bringing, we could be talking in millions, but I think I'll stay here on my own.

I don't want personal development. From what I've seen of him, my inner warrior is a whingeing, giggling little creep who annoys the very people I want to please. My shadow is a devious, randy, unattractive thing, entirely devoid of moral scruples. As for my inner child, he's a grizzling, self-pitying

a shadowy backdrop to the endlessly fascinating personal drama unfolding within your precious psyche.

Yeah so, like, the best way to be mature and grown-up is to scurry about worrying about your career, right? Er, I don't think so.

That's it - that's the great myth of personhood. You honestly believe that all this feeling and caring and self-nurturing is a healthy reaction to the hard-eyed greed-is-good ethic of the Eighties. In fact, it's exactly the same. But whereas 10 years ago, the received wisdom was that if the individual was expansive and ambitious, then society would benefit, today the argument is that, if I'm happy, self-knowing and "centred", then the world will magically be a better, more nurturing place. You're an emotional Thatcherite.

Booooooring. What's a Thatcherite? Something you repair the roof with?

And here's the real kicker. The effect of all this individualism is that it leads to a sort of hillying conformity. You're only accepted as a worthwhile member of society if you care in precisely the right way. It's no coincidence that, in the months following the death of Diana, a quantum leap in national self-confidence became evident. Caring's a competitive business; it gives you the chance to exert moral authority over others, to feel superior to those less sensitive than yourself.

Lalala. Not listening. Not listening. Not listening.

Look at Vanessa or Ricki or Oprah. You can own up to being a dysfunctional sex addict of the worst kind but, if you're sorry and you cry the obligatory tears, then the studio audience will be merciful. Because, hey, you're in a healing place. On the other hand, the sad, bad characters (usually men) who, with hounding slack-jawed innocence, actually dare to defend their behaviour invoke the wrath of the screaming pack of self-righteous praisers in the audience.

Hello! All we inner children are saying is that you should get in touch with your feelings. Is that, like, so difficult to come to terms with? Feeling, feeling - everything's feeling. Whatever happened to thinking?

OK, so let me get this right. It's the action of a thinking person not to go to the Personal Development Show in case he comes across something that frightens him out of his sad little life.

That's quite enough of that! You can go to your room, right now!

Miles Kingston returns next week.

TERENCE
BLACKER

confronts his inner
child and tries to
explain a few
salient points

little brat, forever going through one of those famous "difficult phases".

Oh, you think you're so great, don't you? Such a typical parent. Like, where do you, like, get off with all this totally lame patronising?

But you're so gloomy, you inner children. One never seems to hear of a hey-guys-let's-go-down-the-pub-party-duke inner child. Oh no. It's all introversion and staring out of the window and hursting into tears at the sound of a blackbird, or Rule Britannia at the last night of the Proms, or James Taylor singing Sweet Baby James.

Oh, please. What is your problem? Why's it such a big deal to take me to Olympia?

All the other parents are taking their inner children.

All right, I suppose you're grown-up enough to know the truth. The fact is I've had it up to here with personal growth - all this worshipping at the great shrine of Me gives me the creeps. Love yourself? Get to know yourself? Stand in front of the mirror and say "Hey, guy, you're OK"? It's just another excuse for selfishness.

Duh. Like, no one's selfish in this house, right? All I'm saying is that, if you spend your life searching for the hero inside yourself, the rest of the world tends to become nothing more than



James Simpson, the architect responsible for the new headquarters of the National Trust of Scotland, on site at 31 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh

Tom Pilsbry

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Plea for freedom

Sir: we are the innately, self-reliant for six asylum seekers acquitted on the 17 June of violent disorder at Campfield Detention Centre and three others originally charged but against whom charges were dropped after committed.

We write to make an open plea to the minister responsible for immigration, Mike O'Brien, to take account of the huge suffering and anxiety which has been inflicted on them by unfair and untrue accusations. Two of our clients are aged only 17. One is in a psychiatric hospital and may never recover from the damage done to his mental health and well being.

Both he and another of the accused have made serious and nearly successful suicide attempts. Before the prosecution announced its decision to accept that the evidence by Group 4 officers had been wholly unreliable and that they would not pursue the matter, many of the defendants were in tears at the injustice of the evidence being given against them. Video evidence showed that those taking part in the protest at Campfield contained many white and Asian people yet only black Africans were identified and charged.

All our clients remain in prison even though they have been acquitted. The court proceedings have resulted in them being named in the press and placed at additional risk of persecution if returned to their own countries. In this recent report Sir David Ramsbotham criticised the lack of any judicial review for immigration detention and the demoralising effect on immigration detainees. Our clients have suffered enough. We call on the Home Office Minister to end their misery, release them and grant them leave to remain in the country.

LOUISE CHRISTIAN,
Christian Fisher,
Museum Street, London WC
ROSETTA OFFORNEY
Rosetta Offorney & Co
MARTIN PENROSE,
Winstanley Burgess
PHILIP TURPIN,
Limeless.

British Library

Sir: I was alarmed to read in David Lister's report ("Why the British Library won't get a panning", 23 June) that the principle of free access will end. The magnificent new building at St Pancras at last provides excellent conditions for both readers and the collections. It is surely not beyond the wit of government, having provided the capital, now to provide the revenue to ensure free access for the many, as opposed to charged access for the few. The British Library is vital for the creation of intellectual capital on which this country's culture and economy depends. Surely we cannot be considering jeopardising that role for the sake of the small amounts of money the introduction of charges would realise?

ROSS SHIMMON
Chief Executive
The Library Association
Ridgmount Street,
London

Sir: You tell us the new British Library delivers books, on average, in 50 minutes. While it could take up to a day. Is it fair to compare the new average to the old worst case? Could it be that the blur given to journalists judges the real average improvement in case it doesn't sound impressive enough to justify the cost?

TONY WOOLF
Canfield Gardens
London NW6

Danger for men

Sir: It is all very well trying to find the cause of testicular cancer ("The serial killer still among us", 23 June) but the real problem surrounding the disease is awareness. No one has worked specifically on men's health at the Health Education Authority for at least two years because they are not being given money by the Department of Health. Nor is it being addressed by the Department of Education. Testicular cancer is a young, white man's disease. Yet the issue is not formally discussed at university level. In schools, testicular cancer is not part of sex education or biology classes. I saw my first testicular cancer awareness poster in the toilet of a hospital in Leeds as I was about to be hooked up for my first chemotherapy session. Although TC affects a fraction of the people that are killed every year by breast cancer and its cure rate is exceptional, it is the social stigma, the helplessness, the feeling that your manhood has been compromised that makes it just as difficult to deal with, if not more so. If young men were able to identify the disease early they could avoid the angst of chemotherapy and months of uncertainty.

JAMES ASHTON
Golders Manor Drive
London NW1

Illness and prejudice

Sir: David Osborne's article "The two faces of Michael" (Review, 23 June) represents a further alarmist media portrayal of schizophrenia. Whilst there is no doubt that the murder of Michael Laudor's fiancée is a tragedy, how many more violent crimes occur each hour perpetrated by individuals without any diagnosed mental illness? The whole premise of the article is based on an inaccurate popularist understanding of what schizophrenia is. People who suffer from schizophrenia are not "two-faced" split personalities.

Many theories exist regarding the aetiology and nature of schizophrenia. However there are very few followers of the demon-possession model this article appears to adopt. The use of such powerful biblical language as "battling with demons", etc, fuels the preconceptions and prejudices of which Osborne is critical.

However, any step which improves patient care whilst simultaneously demystifying this illness may help arrest this flow of startling media portrayals of a group of society who commit no more violent crimes than any other.

IAN NOONAN
mental health nursing student,
The Nightingale Institute,
King's College, London

Missing talent

Sir: It is very good news that the Professor Tim Congdon believes thousands of jobs will be created in the City (22 June). Two small questions: Where will they come from, and how qualified, or trained, will they be? The demands made on the City are growing in complexity, as are the opportunities. But City recruitment specialists like myself see a widening skills gap.

The transformation of open-outcry markets to screen-based trading means we need a more reflective, introspective kind of trader. Like other City jobs, real intellectual power and training is increasingly required if London is to maintain its edge.

There is always a shortage of very good people. I suggest three things are needed if the City is to find the right calibre of people and maintain its pre-eminence: closer co-operation between institutions and recruiters in defining and assessing the needs of both companies and candidates; a better informed and more ethical recruitment consultant; and a joint initiative to determine what skills are needed.

TRISH COLLINS
Managing Director,
Exchange Consulting Group,
London

Minimum wage

Sir: So it's to be £3.60. Well that's all right as far as it goes: my staff are all worth at least double that and they deserve a pay rise. Paying for it is another matter. For a small 21-bed nursing home like mine this will add another £120 per week to the wages bill - more if I preserve pay differentials for senior staff.

In the same week the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published a report showing that fees paid by the government to private nursing homes are £40 per bed week short of what is needed to provide good care.

How far does the Government think that it can stretch the elastic before it breaks? For those who have no rich relatives or extra resources to supplement the fees, £1.89 per hour is all there is for the total cost of care and accommodation. It is easy to see how unscrupulous or even desperate home owners will be tempted to cut corners, and the patients will suffer in the end. They will have the cheapest food, the cheapest and most basic of nursing resources, and of course be looked after by 16-year-olds because they are only £3 an hour.

When nursing homes go bankrupt, or owners give up the strain, as happens every week now, the NHS will be left to pick up the tab. And will it provide full nursing care in a friendly, homely environment for £18 a week? I doubt it.

ANDREW MASKIN,
Yorkshire Branch Secretary,
Registered Nursing Home
Association, Keighley, Yorkshire

Lesson on rails

Sir: As your editorial notes on the proposed merger of Virgin Trains and Stagecoach there is concern, as well as ample evidence, that private

financing of the railways, albeit with huge public subsidy, is not delivering an adequate or safe service. How is it that the idea of private companies running some of our schools is supposed to work any better? How long before we find schools closed because experienced teachers have been made redundant to save money and increase profits and there is no one left to teach the pupils? After all its equivalent happened on the railways.

KEITH FLETT,
Mitchley Road,
London N17

Sir: Diane Coyle (June 23) considers it a sign of our backwardness that entrepreneurs such as Richard Branson like to have friends as well as money. I appreciate the problem. We will never be a first-rate country until our businessmen get serious and learn to confuse life with monopoly.

TJ TAYLOR
St Austell, Cornwall

Biblical justice

Sir: Before we hear any more espousing of the "orthodox, traditional Christian" position on homosexuality from the likes of Sir Patrick Cormack, Sir Patrick might want to acquaint himself with the full implications of such a position.

The traditional condemnation of homosexuality rests on exactly the same theological justification as does that of usury: that both practices violate the law of nature, which no one has believed in seriously for some 350 years. Dante places usurers and sodomites in the same circle of hell because the former make fertile something (money) which should be sterile; sodomites make sterile something (the sexual relationship) which should be fertile.

I await with eager anticipation Sir Patrick's traditional Christian comments on the City.

MATTHEW WRIGHT,
Penley Bank,
Guildford, Surrey

Zinoviev myth

Sir: I am surprised that The Independent should resurrect (22 June) the myth that the Zinoviev letter caused Labour to lose the 1924 general election. All the evidence suggests that there is no way Labour could have won in 1924. They were still a minority party but their vote went up by nearly a million.

The real losers were the Liberals who lost over 100 seats and more than a million votes. The real significance of the 1924 election was that it changed the political landscape from a Conservative-Liberal spectrum to a Conservative-Labour spectrum. One Labour MP at the time said he had never "seen MacDonald put in so sure a stroke" in dishing the Liberals.

Why the Government should be wasting money sending an historian and interpreter to Moscow to try to verify the authenticity or otherwise of the Zinoviev letter is a mystery. Our taxes could be spent more wisely.

PETER MOYES
Brighthelmsea, Essex

Praise for surgeon

Sir: We are writing to you as the mother and grandmother of one of the children treated by heart complaints in Bristol. Angus, who is now five, had his operation a little more than three years ago, and Mr Dhasmana was his surgeon.

We cannot speak highly enough of the care and support which Angus and all the family received, from everyone at the hospital, and most particularly from Mr Dhasmana himself. After the operation, he visited Angus at least once every day, and sometimes more. Before the operation, he explained the risks carefully and openly, giving us, Angus's family, all the information we needed to make our decision about the operation. In addition, he spoke openly and honestly about the situation at the hospital, and offered to refer Angus to another surgeon elsewhere if we wished.

We cannot begin to imagine how dreadful it must be to lose a child - our hearts go out to the parents of those who died. But we must remember that for each tragedy there were many thousands of miracles. We wish to express our support for Mr Dhasmana, and our dismay at what is being said about him and done to him.

STELLA M CROOKES,
MELODY A CROOKES,
Churchdown, Gloucester

IN BRIEF

Sir: How demeaning was Deborah Ross's interview with Fay Weldon. She presented this fascinating writer as frivolous, inconsistent and silly. I assume that Ross thought she might make journalistic capital out of the contrast between this image of unmitigated hedonism, and the feminist movement with which Fay Weldon has been associated.

Fay Weldon has made it clear that she is interested in people, not in pose. Her writing is political in that it presents people in situations, in relationships in social climate. It is endearing in its sympathy for vulnerability, savage in its undermining of pretension. The effect of Deborah Ross's report was to reveal her own triviality.

JUDY SPROXTON,
Top Farm House
Temple Grafton, Alcester

Sir: "I wanted clothes that I would wear but shrunk to size" (Fashion, 24 June). The incredulity of this concept is only weighed by the belief that "you either had Gap... or Paul Smith". What world are these women living in? - one of "style over content" if the admissions of Sarah Hiscrope are to be believed. In the fashion war zone of the teenage years, this indoctrination that image is everything will manifest itself in demands for obscenely expensive clothes. Children learn by example; elitist and capitalistic ideals imbedded in children will be perpetuated in adulthood by the divisive belief in a culture of "haves and have-nots" so endemic in 20th century Western society.

PAULINE STILGES
Leichworth, Hertfordshire

THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday

THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday

FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

THE INDEPENDENT
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tell some
truths

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not

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Time for ministers to tell some home truths about Europe

Almost the first act of Gordon Brown's chancellorship was to announce that the Government was - in principle - in favour of EMU and the single currency. By accompanying this with a crafty piece of politics - that, for the moment, practicalities and concern about the project's sustainability meant a "watch and wait" brief - the Chancellor was able to defuse the Euro time-bomb which had exploded in the Conservatives' faces. By adding the "triple lock" before entry of approval by the Cabinet, Parliament and people through a referendum, the Government managed to have it both ways. To Europhiles it could credibly say that it had bitten the bullet and announced an in-principle acceptance. To Eurosceptics it could say that their wish for a referendum had been granted and that, to all practical purposes, there was no possibility of entry during this Parliament.

But the chances of this game succeeding for more than a short while were always slim. Partly this is because of the nature of politics: no decision as fundamental as entry into the single currency could possibly survive such a fudge for long. It ripped the last government apart and, although Labour is far less divided on the question, it goes to the heart of what government is about.

More obviously, all the evidence suggests that the Government is not weighing up the pros and cons, but is genuinely in favour of entry and is using its "watch and wait" tactic as a way of buying the time necessary to convince a sceptical public. Tony Blair's warm words at the Cardiff summit; Gordon Brown's establishment of a committee to oversee preparations just in case; Robin Cook's increasingly pro statements: all suggest that the decision has already been taken. To that extent, *The Sun's* claim that the Prime Minister "seems determined to scrap the pound and take Britain into the European single currency" is spot on. But its motive has more to do with a sudden realisation that its insipid pro-Labour line undermines the natural friction between any "red-top" newspaper and the Government of the day, than with any great insight into Government policy.

The Government is now engaged on a back-door softening-up of the public, so that when the referendum does eventually come the current hostility will, as in 1975, turn into a powerful vote in favour. The next few months, let alone the next few years, will thus determine when - rather than whether - we join the project. If "watch and wait" was based on nothing other than a genuine attempt to look at the evidence before taking the plunge



- if the Government was genuinely undecided - then it would be admirable. But it is not. By refusing to come clean about its enthusiasm, the Government risks undermining its own case by looking as if it has something to hide. The case for an immediate and public decision to join is powerful. If the Government thinks entry will be inevitable, then it should say so now and begin the real rather than the phoney debate. The most sensible way forward is surely to adopt a clear and unambiguous position in favour of British entry and then to combine that with a genuine "watch and wait" policy by holding off from signing up until the first wave of entrants have shown that the currency works.

As things stand we are in for a wretched few years, with both pro and anti forces slinging all sorts of wild scare stories at each other - the pros arguing that staying out will turn us into a Third World economy, the antis that going in will turn us into lesser-Liechtenstein. The longer the Government maintains the pretence that it has yet to decide, the worse this is going to get and the more fed-up an already hostile public is likely to become.

It is not as if the switch will be easy, once a decision is taken. Full compatibility will take many months - if not years - to achieve, and will be extremely costly. Time is of the essence.

Too grave an error of judgement to ignore

LORD NEILL, QC, has done the right thing for the wrong reasons. As chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, he must avoid any hint of controversy. Having accepted a brief from Dame Shirley Porter, he has now dropped it. He should not have taken it in the first place. Dame Shirley is, of course, entitled to the best legal representation available as she takes her case to the Court of Appeal. But she will have to do without Lord Neill, formidable as his legal reputation may be. Dame Shirley is no ordinary client. Judgement has already been given after an exhaustive investigation into her antics at Westminster Council. For Lord Neill to have acted for her would have been a bizarre spectacle - the nation's "sleaze-buster" standing up in court in defence of someone at the centre of one of the greatest sleaze scandals of the day.

Lord Neill's decision to accept the brief raises serious questions about his judgement. It hardly takes a sophisticated mind to see that Dame Shirley is precisely the sort of client that a man in Lord Neill's position should not have. His position as chairman of the Standards Committee rests in large part on his supposed intuitive sense of propriety. Compounding the error, he has shown that he is susceptible to public pressure, albeit this time in the right direction. Lord Neill's great merit was that he was obviously beyond reproach. In all likelihood this was just a silly error on his part. But he has the one job in Britain where no silly errors are acceptable.

Artful performances

FIRST LOUISE Woodward, now Earl Spencer. Has the BBC given up on serious journalism altogether? *Panorama* was once the BBC's flagship current affairs programme. On Monday, however, it sunk to its lowest depths with a cringe-making "interview" with Louise Woodward. It was a piece of puffery which she could have scripted herself. We each have our own views on Ms Woodward, but she is a convicted child killer, properly tried and convicted. For her to be given 40 minutes of prime-time television to put her case as she saw fit was ratings-chasing at its worst.

As if that was not enough, last night the BBC gave three-quarters of an hour to the sanctimonious Earl Spencer. That he lost a sister in so tragic a way was cause enough for sorrow for him. There is a sense, however, that he is building a career out of this. Last night's nauseating spectacle was par for the course. Shame on the Earl, and even more shame on the BBC.

Even the healthiest economy is not immune to a dose of tiger flu

QUITE SUDDENLY America has become seriously worried about the world economy. Is there something nasty happening that will end the long American boom?

Americans - even those in top jobs - don't normally spend too much time thinking about the rest of the world. At the moment the US economy is racing on in such an impressive way that they don't seem to need to - eight years of straight growth, with estimates for this year being increased all the time. But having spent most of the last week in the States talking with senior business people, I have noted a sharp change in view.

A couple of months ago the talk was all about the Fed, domestic demand, interest rates and Wall Street. The Asian slump was a long way away. Now it is much more about the plight of Japan, whether China would devalue, what pressures there would be on US high-tech industries and, in particular, whether instability in the rest of the world might be the thing that ends the long American boom.

One even a week ago illustrates the way this concern is affecting US economic policy. The US Federal Reserve stepped into the foreign exchanges to prop up the Japanese yen. At the time many people assumed that there was some sort of quid pro quo from the Japanese - that they would bring in some policy measures to boost the economy. Now it looks as though there was not.

So why did the US help? The plausible answer, which cannot be checked for obvious reasons, was that the Chinese told them to. If they did not help, China would have been forced

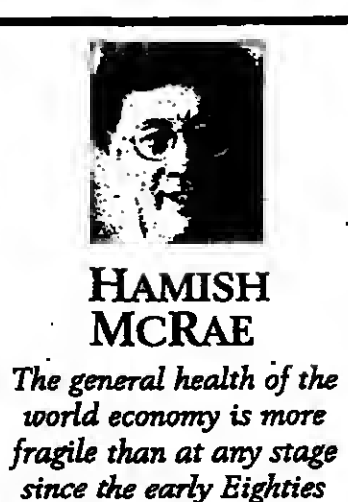
to devalue its own currency. It was very much in the economic self-interest of America to stop this happening, for the balance of trade with China, already the second largest deficit after that with Japan, would widen even further.

It was also in their political self-interest: today President Clinton starts his visit to China and the health of the relationship between the two countries (not to mention President Clinton's position against the protectionists in the US) would be greatly undermined were the trade deficit to soar still further.

But the worry in the US is not just about the economic collapse in the developing countries of East Asia or the recession (it is not yet a collapse) in Japan. It is the general health of the world economy that is now more fragile than at any stage since the early Eighties.

You do not see that in the US itself. The feeling of robust health is palpable, at least in the metropolitan centres: the planes are crammed, the shops busy, the restaurants packed. As each month passes the economists up their estimates for growth. A year ago the consensus was that the US economy would grow by about 2.25 per cent this year; now they reckon it will be 3.25 per cent. There are signs of strain, most notably in their widening trade deficit, but most Americans think the economy can ride out those pressures.

No, the problem is not internal; it is external. The fact that Japan is in recession has raised the spectre: could it happen here? Look around the world and ask: where will global de-



HAMISH MCRAE
The general health of the world economy is more fragile than at any stage since the early Eighties

mand came from over the next couple of years?

It won't come from East Asia, that is for sure. At some stage the region will of course come through recession, and by the middle of the next decade it could well be growing as fast as ever. But that is a long time to wait.

Europe? Well, yes a bit. Up to now the countries that have been growing fast have been the small ones (with the exception of the UK and those on the fringe, while the countries which have been growing slowly have been the large ones and those at the core. Until a month ago that seemed to be changing, for core continental Europe was at last starting to show decent growth.

This year looks like being the first since 1992 when France and Germany will grow faster than the UK. But this growth has been mainly driven by exports, and it is not universal: in the last

week figures have come out showing that Italy may be back in recession, and that output in the euro area as a whole is slowing too. The UK itself cannot help much as a source of demand. There is a limit to the extent to which we are able to widen our current account deficit, even if the rest of the world would let us do so.

Where else? Parts of Eastern Europe are doing fine but in Russia things are profoundly worrying. Parts of Latin America are doing all right too, but the largest economy, Brazil, is flat. India? No, for there has been a massive loss of financial confidence since the resumption of nuclear tests. Canada and Australia? Canada is growing well but the Canadian dollar is so cheap against the US one that it would be astonishing if it were not. Australia has been seriously damaged by the fall in demand from the rest of its time zone.

Where else? Well, there really isn't anywhere else that is big enough to make a material difference to global growth. Result: estimates for global growth have been coming down, even though estimates for the largest economy, the US, have been going up. The burden on the US to keep the whole show going becomes greater and greater, and as a result, the more thoughtful people in the business community are starting to get twitchy.

There is even an uncomfortable, if partial, parallel with East Asia. The US is now the fastest-growing region, as East Asia was 18 months ago. Rapid growth attracts an inflow of foreign capital, which in turn helps sustain the growth. That too is happening now in

the US (hence the strong dollar), just as it happened in East Asia until the middle of last year. But suppose, just suppose, that the inflow ceases, and maybe even becomes an outflow; then the virtuous circle is reversed into a vicious spiral - as has happened in East Asia.

Mercifully the US does not have the crony capitalism of East Asia; it does not have the close relationships between banks and commercial companies; it does not have the corruption, either. But it is the world's largest debtor nation, and some distant day the foreigners might want to cash their chips.

Then of course there is Wall Street. People have been calling the turn in US equities for many months and have been proved wrong. But nothing goes up for ever and however you slice them, US share prices are historically at a high level. There is an obvious potential vulnerability here.

Economic models are as much about perception as reality. I don't think the realities of the world economy have changed much in the last three months. But I know that the perception, particularly in the US, has changed. People are starting to talk about preparing for the ending of the boom. The idea that there might be a post-millennial slump is appearing in newspaper columns, sometimes with the spin that if there is, it won't be America's fault: it will be the fault of Europe and East Asia.

We used to say that if America sneezed, Europe caught a cold. Now East Asia has pneumonia and Europe is a bit snuffy. Expect a sneeze in America - maybe more.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is because of his ability to persuade people, that he could be the most dangerous man in Britain"
David Yelland,
Editor of *'The Sun'*,
on Tony Blair

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding"
Albert Einstein,
mathematician



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Republican News, Dublin
IRISH UNITY and independence are the best context within which to tackle the political and social inequalities that face the Irish people. Sinn Fein is looking beyond the present situation and towards a future based on freedom, justice and peace. A vote for Sinn Fein is a vote for the continuation of the peace process. Sinn Fein has been the dynamic force for change over the years. The best way to ensure that the pace of political progress continues is to go out and vote Sinn Fein on 25 June.

Belfast Telegraph
MR TRIMBLE has signalled, in his cautious way, that the cold war between the two traditions should be at an end. There is a long way to go, and the parties linked to paramilitaries who have indicated that their war is over have yet to prove it, by action on decommissioning. There is a good chance, however, that if the vote goes the right way on Thursday, Mr Trimble will be able to institute, as First Minister, the new Northern Ireland of which his predecessors could only dream.

MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Ireland's press anticipates today's Assembly elections

The Irish News, Belfast
ONCE TODAY'S result is known, Unionism will embark on a complicated realignment that has been overdue for 20 years. Nationalists will be spectators of that display, reminiscent of the turmoil that afflicted Union-

ism in the early Seventies as its politicians struggled to avoid the implications of equality of status. Today they can play a unique role by using their preferences judiciously to support the slim majority of Unionists who want change.

Irish Independent, Dublin
TRIMBLE is banking on the hope that a clear majority of Protestants are prepared to step into the political unknown. But there is still so much mistrust in Northern politics that it will take a long time for nationalists to accept that this politician may have turned a new corner, and that Unionism is capable of being refashioned to include inclusiveness and partnership.

The Irish Times, Dublin
IT WILL quickly become clear whether even pro-Agreement Unionists can countenance

Sinn Fein becoming part of the new Northern Ireland executive (or the shadow executive) in the absence of decommissioning. The evidence is they cannot. The reality is the Republican movement is conditioned to accept the kind of compromises for them that the Belfast Agreement represents. In the long term, even the medium term, the war is over, but a resumption of that campaign will defer for years the reassurance of Unionists that the war is indeed over and without such reassurance no agreement can work.

PANDORA

USING HIS working title "Edward Windsor", according to *Daily Variety*, Prince Edward (below) will visit Los Angeles on 13 July to promote his latest "Crown & Country" TV documentary series, soon to be shown on American public television. Produced by Ardent Productions, the Sultan of Brunei-backed company, of which Edward is managing director and head of production, the series takes full advantage of its MD's royal connections, as usual, featuring "historical" subjects such as Windsor Castle and Sandringham.

Not all of Fast Eddie's previous bids to cash in on his family have been winners, however. Both a planned film drama about the Queen Mother and a proposal to film the Royal Gala in honour of his mum's golden wedding anniversary came a cropper. Still, Fast Eddie reaped the free usage of extensive film footage paid for by the Royal Collection which documented the restoration of Windsor Castle. The result: a programme about Windsor's restoration that Fast Eddie sold to ITV for an undisclosed sum. His other royal winner was, of course, *Edward On* *Edward*, a documentary about the Duke of Windsor shown on Channel 4.

When the Queen dropped the Prince Formerly Known as Edward from the Civil List in 1993, she softened the blow by personally granting him £96,000 a year in pocket money. Since then, his salary at Ardent was raised 20 per cent last November to £114,125, despite the company running up more than £1m in losses. Let us not forget Eddie's outrage earlier this year when, at another Hollywood beano, he was asked about the Mirror Group's docudrama about Princess Diana and Dodi. When asked if his company, which has attempted to capitalise on both his mother and his grandmother, might ever make a film about his late sister-in-law, Eddie said, "I think there are some subjects which are just too close and personal." Perhaps he means his fiancée?

ONCE UPON a time new Labour campaigned on promises to enact a Freedom of Information Act. Whatever happened to it? One of Pandora's colleagues rang the Cabinet Office at 10 Downing Street the other day for an update. He was referred to Charles Ramsden, deputy director of the Freedom of Information Unit. Unfortunately, when he identified himself as an independent journalist and asked to speak with the Unit's deputy director, he was told,

"We don't speak to the press. You'll have to speak to the Cabinet Office."

FOLLOWING MONDAY'S tough voting session on lowering the age of consent, a very jolly Westminster evening took place on College Green at the annual Lords and Commons Tug of War. Despite having two extra members on their team, the Commons team were yanked off into defeat by the stalwart Lords. Everyone then piled into the marquee behind Westminster Abbey for refreshments and a tombola. Pandora was pleased to see that Col. Blimp-like Dr Keith Simpson, the Tories' junior spokesman for Defence, who'd earlier cast his vote against lowering the age of consent, was rewarded with a charming prize – a Valentino handbag.

ON TUESDAY The Big Issue magazine helped to sponsor a social affairs conference held at the Purcell Room on the South Bank. How embarrassing when a Big Issue vendor, with permission to sell in the area, was suddenly thrown out by one of the magazine's PR people. The homeless vendor returned to the magazine's Clerkenwell offices and complained; the PR flack was rung. The vendor duly returned to the Purcell Room and was thrown out yet again. This time by security guards there to protect VIPs such as minister Alan Howard and Downing Street special adviser Geoff Mulgan. The subject of this incredibly relevant, highly secure conference? "Social Exclusion: Narrowing the Divide".

IT SEEMS that Gerald Malone, former Tory health minister and now executive editor at *The European*, has not been sacked by editor-in-chief Andrew Neil, pending the outcome of a formal complaint by assistant editor Nicola Davidson who accuses Malone of having struck her after she resisted his amorous advances. The restraint shown by Davidson in filing a complaint rather than resorting to physical knee-to-jerk retaliation was fortunate. Given how unpopular he was with many of the nation's health professionals during his ministerial tenure, it's doubtful if Malone would have enjoyed the emergency treatment he might have received at Casualty.



Don't lock up young racists



BIDISHA
Britain's new generation of racists are learning their prejudices around the family dinner table

BRITAIN IS breeding a generation of Fascists. Research by the Home Office, investigating the extension of the Crime and Disorder Bill that aims to curb racism, has uncovered a nation of under-teens for whom Seventies-style prejudice – embodied by pejorative epithets such as "wop" and "chink" and xenophobic taunts – is in vogue.

Kids between the ages of four and ten are bringing terms such as "nigger" and "Paki" to school, along with their sports kit and packed lunches, and exercising a form of racial exclusion when it comes to group games and class seating arrangements. The predictable old suggestion that foreigners swim home, or take their smelly selves to the other end of the playground, are coming out of mouths that should, by now, be well accustomed to munching on a samosa and pronouncing non-English words. In any case, the children are far too young to have formulated any complex form of racial dislike.

Of course, these kids do not really feel that "dirty immigrants" are seizing jobs that should go to English people, are polluting English

genes by intermarriage, and corrupting Christian ethics with heathen religions. They certainly do not lament the lost days of the Empire. They've learnt their hatred by overhearing their families talking at the dinner table; and they pass it on to their peers without understanding what it means.

Although it has been established that parental influence is the root cause of such manifestations of

prejudice in people so young, the proposed solutions display a laughable lack of understanding of race, young people and class. The Home Office is suggesting a restriction of kids' movements, increased parental vigilance over their offspring and enforced residence at home during certain times.

How could this possibly work? It would exacerbate the problem by breeding a culture of resentment. Youths would be even more exposed to the prejudices of their families, and grow up hating not only non-Caucasians but also the Government, "their jailers". As soon as they were unleashed, right at the beginning of their teens, they'd be cruising to administer a bruising.

To compound the problem, the chaps at Westminster – mostly white, all at least middle class – seem to think that racism is displayed only in the form of a modish Tarantino movie. Their vision of a torn Britain is a montage of clichés: fierce young people, divided along lines of national origin, stalking the streets, disaffected, unreachable and out of control.

In their eyes, the young perpe-

trators of racial abuse are school bullies turned street vigilantes, drop-outs turned renegades, underachievers trying to exert some control on their lives by spreading terror in the immediate vicinity.

That is not the case. Racists are not all stupid people, and although racism may manifest itself in different forms, depending on social and economic factors, it certainly does not beg a clamp-down upon the liberty of young people's movements. Indeed, there is no relationship between that and the "spread" of prejudice.

The opposite approach – sending people into the world and expanding their understanding of how, in many cases, various nationalities have successfully fused – might be far more enlightening for them. There is no guarantee, however, that even that would work. Racists do not need to be taught that we are living in a multicultural country. They know it, and they fear and hate it. They fear difference, and change, and they do not want to face the difficulties of coming to terms with, or seeking to understand, unfamiliar new influences.

That fear shows itself in different ways, and racism is sophisticated enough to adapt to all classes and social background. A child in one type of school may cry "Paki go home", that is no different morally from a child in a "better" school telling his friends about his strange, alien, brown-skinned namesake.

One child picks fights with others; another ignores them because he has not seen them before, except as servants. When I first went to university I was shocked by the way that I simply was "not seen" by my peers. I did not exist.

They were bright youngsters, civilised and generally friendly, liberal culturally, if not in voting habits. They had ethnic rugs in their rooms and ate past-rugby curries, but it was clear that I was "other", not an option for friendship. It was clear how these people would grow up: liberal hypocrites, monocultural but secure in their social position.

I don't know which is worse: a disaffected boy from the "inner city" (that old cliché) shouting obscenities, or a refined gent whose narrow-mindedness is concealed by an air of confident social supremacy.

Watch out, Tony – the left fears the euro, too



ANNE MCELVOY
The most dangerous man in Britain? The question is usually reserved for paedophiles

THE SUN has declared one of its wars, this time on Tony Blair's European policy. "Is THIS the most dangerous man in Britain?" demanded yesterday's front page. The question is more usually reserved for paedophiles or axe-murderers and sat oddly beside a picture of Mr Blair looking coolly handsome and thoroughly harmless.

Tabloid excitability aside, *The Sun* is right to have noticed that the Labour leadership's cautiously favourable approach to EMU has been surreptitiously replaced by a tone of relentless optimism. It is also right to make a fuss about it.

The signs are that policy has changed from waiting till EMU was up and running before assessing whether Britain should take part. Such was the promise of Gordon Brown's statement to the House on the matter last year.

Now, however, we have the purposeful language of advocacy, intended to prepare the public for early entry. Last week Mr Blair hinted strongly in Strasbourg that he favoured unconditional entry: "We can remain independent of the euro. The question is whether it is in our best interest to do so... I am optimistic." This sounded suspiciously like the starting bell for a concerted campaign to erode public reservations.

But how can the Prime Minister possibly know whether the euro will generate stability? It may well have the opposite effect, particularly given the as yet unknown impact of the Asian crisis on European economies. EMU is a strongly deflationary project, requiring adherence to a single, invariable interest rate to succeed. This combination is not what most sober calculators would call grounds for optimism.

Out of the 20 *Sun* tests of the "Perils of the Single Currency", all but three – the ones invoking mawkish nationalism and exaggerated accounts of France and Germany's economic weakness – were reasonable criticisms of the project and its suitability for Britain.

From interest rate inflexibility to convergence differences between Britain and Europe, the dislocation between the low-tax strategy adopted by Labour to the far higher averages in continental Europe; from the democratic deficit of unelected bank chiefs running national economies to governments left without the options for change if voters protest – all these arguments should be ruthlessly tested before Britain commits itself to EMU.

The Tories' extended blood-letting over Europe has persuaded new Labour to jam the lid on debate. Those on the centre-left who fear that European leaders took a wrong turn at Maastricht can easily be branded as fearfully clinging to the paraphernalia of island pride.

It is not like that at all. The "Eu-

ropean ideal" which Mr Blair quite rightly believes to be a force for good on a continent that has sacrificed so much to war is ill-served by the precarious project of EMU. The really worthwhile historical mission – enlargement of the Union and the reform of its institutions, has been delayed by the concentration on the creation of a currency elite.

EMU-philes have been fortunate in their enemies. Euroscepticism allowed itself to be defined by left-wing warhorses such as Tony Benn and the small-minded, flag-waving xenophobes of the Conservative Right. In the latter category I included some clever but miscalculating politicians such as John Redwood who are too cultivated to be anti-foreigner themselves, use the imagery of parochial nationalism to make their arguments more accessible.

That is why I never describe myself as a Eurosceptic. I once went to a meeting of the Anti-Maastricht Alliance and found myself in a room full of Sid and Doris Bonkers. The term "Eurosceptic" has now lost its root meaning of "those distrustful of a single currency/integrationist project" and become a neologism for Conservative hyper-patriots or old Labour high spenders.

But centre-left EMU-Sceptics – or Euro-thoughtfuls – are a different breed. I believe there are quite a lot of us out there – and not a few in new Labour who are not so much convinced EMU-supporters as scared to be seen to be unconvinced by anything the leadership proposes.

Euro-thoughtfuls are not theological, unconditional Eurosceptics. We do not warm to the strident cry of "Save the pound" under which the alliance against the euro is currently running. It is too reminiscent of the sort of thing people say when they are shaking their walking-stick at you. It is not the pound as a totemic



Blair chats with other European leaders at a recent summit.

object of Britishness that we are arguing about here. It is the single currency.

If, well into the next century, the project turns out to have been a runaway success and Europe is blooming in freedom, prosperity and goodwill, full of satisfied and employed electorates, I shall eat my worries and say I was wrong. Until then, I reserve the right to doubt.

It is the centre-left's duty to be sceptical about everything – to look beyond the hinkered certainties of ideology. But monetary union is an ideological project. It was intended by the French to create a supranational political entity to constrain Germany. Britain will certainly have less influence outside; but it will have greater freedom of manoeuvre – perhaps a more useful trait in a highly competitive world.

EMU's dirty little secret is that a lot of things will have to happen afterwards which its proponents hide from us today. Without harmonisation of tax, pensions and eventual welfare provision, it cannot be sustained. We have not yet had an

open debate about the consequences of such a major shift in the way we are governed and the consequences for the accountability of those we vote into power.

Mr Blair says that he does want a Europe which is inward-looking, protectionist and mired in bureaucracy. I believe him. But what does he see in the present EU that leads him to conclude that the Union is prepared to reform itself?

The language of inevitability and momentum is misleading. There is always a way back. Mr Blair is a flexible and responsive politician. He has often reconsidered earlier positions and been applauded for so doing. He should apply the same stringency to his European policy and hold Britain from taking a part in the experimental theatre of EMU until such a time as there is sound evidence that the most potent fears were unfounded.

He should do so not because *The Sun* says so, but because it is the act of a truly outstanding statesman to resist the follies of his contemporaries.

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Religious liberty for all is our goal



PODIUM

BILL CLINTON
Remarks made by the American President to religious leaders in Washington before his visit to China

WE WELCOME the recent release from prison of two key Chinese religious leaders, Gao Feng and Bishop Zeng Jingmai, as well as China's announcement that it intends to sign the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with its guarantees of freedom of thought and religion. But Chinese Christians, Muslims, and Buddhists remain imprisoned for their religious activities, including in Tibet, and other believers face harassment.

Therefore, when in China, I will speak as clearly as I can about human rights and religious freedom. Our message is clear: we in the United States believe that all governments everywhere should ensure fundamental rights, including the right of people to worship when and where they choose. We believe that China should resume talks with the Dalai Lama. We believe that prisoners of conscience should be released.

I am convinced that dealing directly with the Chinese on these issues is the best way to make a difference, and making a difference is in the end what matters. I am also convinced,

as I told President Jiang here both privately and in our press conference, that China will be more stable, will grow stronger, will acquire more influence in the world in direct proportion to the extent to which it recognises liberties of all kinds and especially religious liberty.

Of course, we all know that the freedom to follow one's personal beliefs, to worship as one chooses, is at the core of what it means to be an American. It is in the very first amendment to the Constitution. It is at the forefront of the Bill of Rights. Men and women fleeing religious persecutions helped to found our country. They still arrive every year, from every point in the world, to seek this freedom.

Our churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and other houses of worship are centres of vibrant community life and vital community service. We have always been vigilant in protecting our own religious freedoms, for we know that an attack on any group imperils all. Dr Martin Luther King once said that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". It clearly applies

to the principle of religious liberty.

And we know now that if we want the kind of world for our children that we are labelling so hard to build for the 21st century, our struggle for liberty cannot end at our borders. There are many countries, far too many, where religious believers still suffer in darkness, where governments ban religious practices or force an officially sanctioned creed on

non-believers; people are harassed, imprisoned, tortured, sometimes even executed for daring to live by their beliefs.

On the other hand, we know that when religious diversity is respected, it fosters a sense of community and solidarity. Religious hatred fuels violence, as we have seen too often. So we promote both religious freedom and religious tolerance. They are two sides of the same coin, each necessary for the other's success.

Secretary Albright and I have made promotion of religious freedom around the world a top priority. I have had extensive discussions on the subject with President Yeltsin and with other world leaders. State Department officials here and overseas now give greater attention to religious persecution and other religious liberty issues than ever before.

Let me just say one word about how we should continue to pursue this cause. I have been deeply touched that as the presence of these members of Congress shows, there is a universal determination I think in our country among all our decision-makers to advance

the cause of religious liberty. There is some difference of opinion about how we can best proceed.

My belief is that we have to be both principled and resourceful. We need to be dedicated to achieving results. And therefore I hope that Congress will not only express its strong support and give us the tools to do the job, but leave us as much flexibility as possible to advance the cause of religious freedom consistent with what can be done and how it can best be done, nation by nation. America is not strengthened in fighting for religious liberty or in fighting against religious persecution by laws that are so rigid a President's hands are tied.

As we intensify our efforts to promote religious liberty, I know we can count on the support of people of faith all over this country.

Abraham Lincoln, whose determination to defend our liberty cost him his life, once said, "The fight must go on. The cause of liberty must not be surrendered at the end of one, or even 100, defeats." That is what we must believe, that is the reality we must create.

Can Africa beat its great plague?



STEVE CONNOR
Aids in Africa will rival the Medieval Plague, which decimated Europe

THERE IS one glimmer of hope among the dire predictions of the spread of Aids in Africa, and it comes from Uganda, one of the countries worst affected.

The message is clear and simple. A country that admits the scale of the problem is the one where it is possible to stop the inexorable spread of HIV throughout the population.

Scientists at the World Health Organisation in Geneva have released their most pessimistic assessment yet of the Aids epidemic in Africa, where 21 million people are infected with the virus, two-thirds of the total in the rest of the world. The most worrying feature of this statistic is that 90 per cent of these carriers do not know they are infected, and are seemingly oblivious to their potential for passing on the virus to others.

It is sometimes easy to forget that Aids - the modern plague, as it has so often been called - is almost entirely avoidable. HIV is an infectious agent, but one that is easy to block by following simple rules about sexual abstinence or safe sex. There is no need for the difficult technological fixes required for many other infectious diseases. The answer to HIV is simple. Use a condom, or just say No.

Uganda understood this message early on and has begun, finally, to reap the benefits, albeit after the deaths of far too many of its citizens. Latest figures on infection rates in this part of central Africa show that the message of its government's brave non-denial is beginning to save lives.

For the rest of Africa, however, the outlook is extremely gloomy. The WHO's latest surveillance figures, which are by far the most accurate estimates to date, point to countries where HIV has become alarmingly endemic.

In Botswana and Zimbabwe, countries not considered to be in the original centre of the epidemic, HIV now affects more than one in four adults. In some African cities infection rates are higher than 30 per cent. The WHO says that as many as 70 per cent of women attending some African antenatal clinics are HIV-positive.

The WHO pulls no punches over



A family at their home in Mali, one of the many African nations facing an Aids epidemic

Patric Zachmann/Magnum

the mess that Africa is in. Aids there will rival the Great Plague of the Middle Ages, which laid waste the population of Europe, and the worst influenza epidemic in history in the winter of 1918-1919, when more than 20 million people died - more than those killed in action during the First World War.

No doubt the cynics and detractors will repeat their accusations that the WHO is cooking the books to make it seem as though it has a huge struggle on its hands, in order to lobby for extra funding. At least one Sunday newspaper in Britain has attempted, unsuccessfully, to expose the "myth" of Aids in Africa. The campaign failed largely because the sheer quality and authority of the scientific data

on the spread of HIV in Africa overwhelmed the combination of anecdote and misrepresentation that the newspaper relied on.

It would, however, be impossible to ignore the latest report from the WHO's team of scientists working in the field. They now clearly detect that the epidemic has strengthened its stranglehold of central Africa, and has taken a dramatic turn south.

Countries in sub-Saharan Africa account for the world's 21 highest rates of HIV among adults aged 15 to 49 - the normal age bracket for the most sexually active members of a society. Every African country south of the Sahara now has its own home-grown epidemic, and in 13 of these HIV has infected at least 10

per cent of adults. From Mali in the north to Botswana in the south, Aids has become dangerously endemic.

There is another deadly factor in the African equation. HIV in this part of the world is almost entirely spread by heterosexual intercourse, which means that as many women as men are infected. As a result of this sexual equality, HIV in Africa has hit children harder than anywhere else in the world. Nearly nine out of every ten children in the world who are infected with HIV live in Africa, partly because infected mothers pass on the virus during pregnancy, childbirth or breast-feeding.

HIV is spread heterosexually in Africa probably because of the

number of untreated venereal diseases, which cause lesions in the skin that facilitate blood-to-blood transfer of the virus.

The very young (along with the very old) have, of course, always taken the brunt of any epidemic. What makes Aids particularly dangerous in Africa is that it primarily affects the most economically important members of society: sexually active adults, who are frequently the sole supporters of the very young and the old. If they are not already worried, African governments should consider the implications of losing between 10 and 30 per cent of their able-bodied workforce within the next decade.

There are other features of HIV that make it uniquely terrifying.

One is that the disease attacks the very defences the body uses to fight off disease, and in Africa a healthy immune system is more vital than in many other parts of the world, where there are fewer infectious diseases. The second is that it takes so long for HIV to cause the first symptoms. It is easy for anyone to understand that a bullet fired from a gun is dangerous. It is not so easy to comprehend a gun's lethality when its bullet takes 10 years to have any effect whatsoever on the victim.

There are also unique features of African countries which make them particularly prone to HIV. For a start, the virus has been on the continent longer than it has existed anywhere else. As a result it has managed to evolve into many different sub-types, all of which are present in Africa, and can pose different problems for the body's immune defences.

African societies are also conducive to the spread of Aids. There are low levels of literacy which make public education difficult. There is war, famine, poverty and a history of migrant labour, all of which create the conditions for the mass movement of people and the creation of a thriving sex industry that helps HIV to spread.

But all is not lost for Africa, providing other countries follow the example of Uganda. Against a background of almost universal denial by the rest of the continent, Uganda was the first to admit that it had a problem. Its government responded with an active national campaign, much like those in Britain and elsewhere, where the simple facts of HIV and Aids gradually replaced the fear and ignorance that have so often helped the virus to spread elsewhere in the world.

Uganda established active prevention programmes, which focused on delaying sexual relations for adolescents and negotiating safe sex with an insistent partner. Ugandans between the ages of 15 and 19 - the latest recruits to sexual activity - are half as likely to be infected with HIV as people five years older.

This is important because the 15-19 age group is the "engine" of any Aids epidemic, and falling infection rates in these youngsters suggest a long-term decline in the numbers contracting Aids. This, of course, will turn out to be the case only if the message continues to get through to adolescents before they start having sex.

Scientists working in Uganda say that one of the biggest influences on young people was seeing what had happened to their older brothers and sisters who had led a promiscuous adolescence: they died. Sex did not then look such an attractive proposition.

Being open and honest about the message of Aids is as strong now as it was when those slick advertisements warned Britons not to die of ignorance. If it can work in Uganda, it can work anywhere.

RIGHT OF REPLY

CARDINAL WINNING



The Head of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland reacts to the gay age of consent vote

BEFORE THE election we were told legislation would be given the "family test" - would a given policy benefit the family? Yet oow families are left coming to terms with the idea that predatory male homosexuals will be able to indulge in dangerous, immoral acts with their 16-year-old sons, while our legislators wash their hands of the whole issue, proclaiming it to be a question of "freedom and equality". The vote on lowering the homosexual age of consent involved MP's exposing children to a lifestyle that will reduce their life expectancy; increase their chances of infection with HIV, and expose them to predatory and abusive relationships.

In Scotland, only Tam Dalyell stood up for what he believed. Many others, personally known to me, who share my concerns about homosexuality, stayed away or allowed political correctness to overcome their conscience.

In this particular battle the "gay lobby" has had some unsavoury allies. In 1978, the journal of the Paedophile Information Exchange carried this advice for members: "Let us support the lobby to lower the age of consent, but never, never should we be leading such calls. It must come from enlightened progressives and professional pressure groups."

Let readers think that the Roman Catholic Church is being unduly harsh, let me say clearly that the Church deplores the fact that homosexuals have been the object of violence in speech or action.

The Church's condemnation is of the homosexual act, not the person. Homosexual feelings exist, and, although disordered, are not sinful per se. What is sinful, dangerous and ultimately delusory is the homosexual act. This vote will bring about the opposite of what was intended.

Reading between illiterate lines

IF YOU think the age of sexual consent is controversial, try reading. For decades, experts have battled over the best way to teach it, with hapless parents caught in the middle. In one corner are the advocates of "real books" who believe that children learn to read simply by being exposed to books. In the other are supporters of "phonics" - crudely, the sounding out of words as in C-A-T for "cat". And somewhere in between are the proponents of "look and say", which involves memorising whole words. The official view is that a mixture of methods works best.

So Diane McGuinness's book is shocking. She insists that all these theories are wrong. She contends that there is only one scientifically proven way, based on the ability to hear individual sounds - phonemes. If children also learn to map each sound to its most probable spelling and to master alternative spellings for the 43 phonemes in the language, almost all can learn to read. Though most of her spleen is reserved for the "real books" advocates, she also dismisses "phonics". Phonics does not work, she says, because children start with a letter and match it to a sound.

Her review of 25 years of research leads her to other shocking assertions. Dyslexia, used as an explanation of "learning difficulties" and a label for children of normal or above-average intelligence who have difficulty learning to read, does not exist. Children fail to read not because of something wrong with their brain but because they have not been taught properly. Remedial programmes, such as Reading Recovery, pioneered in New Zealand and now being used by several English local authorities, are dismissed as expensive and ineffective.

There are shocks, too, for parents. If you listen to your children read and



THURSDAY BOOK

WHY CHILDREN CAN'T READ: AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT
BY DIANE MCGUINNESS, PENGUIN, £8.99

correct words or even sound them out without providing them with any way of correcting their own mistakes, you are wasting your time. Forget teaching children to memorise the alphabet, the names of letters and capital and lowercase letters: you may actually do them harm.

Ms McGuinness, a developmental psychologist at the university of South Florida, goes back to the Sumerians to explain why we have

failed to teach around a third of the population to read. She offers a fascinating analysis of how writing developed to argue that speech sounds are the basic unit for all writing systems, and therefore for learning to read. We have, she says, 5,500 years of evidence to prove it. She offers research from two recent American programmes: Lindamood Auditory Discrimination in Depth and PhonographixTM, both based on phono-



Is there a fool-proof way to teach children how to read? John Lawrence

logical awareness, to argue that everyone, including adults and children who have failed other remedial programmes, can be taught to read. Indeed, 97 per cent of poor readers can improve in 12 hours or less.

McGuinness's book is compellingly written, but do we believe her? It requires something of a leap of faith to accept that, after 400 years of failing to teach the English writing system, we are on the threshold of the Holy Grail. Can the solution to the nation's literacy problems really be that simple? Not long ago, Reading Recovery was supposed to provide the solution to illiteracy and ministers were pouring money into it. Can all teachers be trained to use the system outlined by McGuinness? To the lay eye, it looks dauntingly complicated.

Yet, the case for using speech sounds as a basis for teaching reading is powerfully made. Her story of Sumerian, Egyptian and Chinese efforts to translate talk into writing unfolds as enthralling as a detective novel. They help her to the conclusion that no child should ever be

required to memorise whole words by sight because writing systems based on whole words don't work: people's capacity for memorising words is limited. Her argument that everything we have tried so far has failed is unassailable. Reading standards in this country have not risen since the war, despite educational see-sawing from one strategy to another.

Perhaps that is not surprising since they pre-date any scientific understanding of reading. This, by contrast, is a comprehensive scientific approach to literacy, yet some of the research into earlier remedial reading programmes looks dubious. The findings of Australian and American scientists showing that dyslexic children just have difficulty unguing sounds are persuasive.

But American research into the two new reading programmes that are offered as a solution looks convincing enough. For a government committed to transforming reading standards over the next five years, it must surely be worth a try.

JUDITH JUDD

THURSDAY POEM

GOLDEN RETRIEVALS
BY MARK DOTY

Fetch? Balls and sticks capture my attention
Seconds at a time. Catch? I don't think so.
Bunny, tumbling leaf, a squirrel who's - oh
joy - actually scared. Sniff the wind, then
I'm off again: muck, pond, ditch, residue
Of any thrillingly dead thing. And you?
Either you're sunk in the past, half our walk,

Thinking of what you over can bring back,
Or else you're off in some fog concerning
- tomorrow, is that what you call it?
My work: to unsnare time's warp (and woe!), retrieving,
my haze-headed friend, you. This shining bark,
a Zen master's bronzy gong, calls you here,
entirely, now: bow-wow, bow-wow, bow-wow.

This poem comes from Mark Doty's third collection, 'Sweet Machine', published this week by Cape (£8)

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6/OBITUARIES

Maureen O'Sullivan

THE DELICATELY beautiful, Irish-born actress Maureen O'Sullivan will be best remembered for two reasons - her performance as Jane in a string of Tarzan films opposite Johnny Weissmuller, and as the real-life mother of Mia Farrow. She memorably quipped, when told that Frank Sinatra was hoping to marry her daughter, "At his age, he should marry me!"

O'Sullivan's own career was a long and distinguished one, including performances in such major Hollywood films as *The Thin Man*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*, *Anna Karenina*, *A Day at the Races*, *The Big Clock*, and more recently *Hannah and Her Sisters*, in which she played mother to her daughter Mia.

Born in Boyle, Ireland, in 1911, O'Sullivan had had no acting training when she was noticed by the director Frank Borzage at a dinner-dance of Dublin's International Horse Show. He had the waiter send her a note: "If you are interested in being in a film, come to my office tomorrow at 11am", and subsequently he cast her as the daughter of tenor John McCormack in *Song O' My Heart* (1930), which was being partly filmed in Erin before completion in Hollywood.

Though O'Sullivan's inexperience was apparent, the film was a great success and the studio (Fox) gave the new actress a contract. Her next film was the futuristic musical, *Just Imagine* (1930), after which she was teamed with the studio's top star Will Rogers in *The Princess and the Plumber* (1930). O'Sullivan later expressed dissatisfaction with her treatment by the studio, feeling that they used her as a threat to their top female star Janet Gaynor, who was on suspension for more money and a new contract. When Gaynor settled with the studio, O'Sullivan's roles became smaller and the following year, her contract was terminated. "I felt lonely, forsaken and unwanted," she said later, but in 1932 she was signed to a contract by

'It caused such a furore,' she recalled, 'with thousands of women objecting to my costume'

O'Sullivan, besides her attractiveness, brought a sense of humour plus an appealing blend of sophistication and innocence to the girl who teaches the jungle-bred hero how to speak, starting with "Tarzan... Jane" (not "Me Tarzan, you Jane" as commonly misquoted). The second of the series, *Tarzan and His Mate* (1934) is generally considered the best, matching the first in lyrical beauty and exelling in its excitement and dramatic impetus. "Everyone cared about the Tarzan pictures," said O'Sullivan, "and we all gave of our best. They weren't quickies - it often took a year to make one."

What the critic DeWitt Bodeen called the "sweet paganism" of the first two films is missing from the later ones, partly because of pressures from moralist groups who

objected to the scanty costumes, and in particular a sequence in *Tarzan and His Mate* (later cut), in which Tarzan tugs on Jane's garment as they dive into the water and when she surfaces part of her breast is exposed. "It started such a furore," recalled O'Sullivan, "with thousands of women objecting to my costume."

In subsequent films Jane's costume was more substantial while Tarzan's loincloth was lengthened. *Tarzan Escapes* was started in 1934, but was over two years in the making, mainly because its first cut was too frightening and violent (including a vampire bat sequence). One of the directors brought in to reshoot the material was John Farrow, who fell in love with O'Sullivan. The couple had to wait for two years for a papal dispensation because of a previous divorce of Farrow's, but their subsequent marriage lasted 27 years (until the director's death in 1963) despite his heavy drinking and infidelities. The couple had seven children - three sons and four daughters, the eldest girl Maria growing up to become the actress Mia Farrow. Between the Tarzan films, MGM cast O'Sullivan as ingenue in over 40 films - leading roles in B pictures but usually supporting roles in major ones.

She was the distraught daughter who asks investigator Nick Charles to locate her missing father in *The Thin Man* (1934), the first of the series, and the start of a lifelong friendship between the actress and Myrna Loy ("I loved Maureen's warm exuberance," wrote Myrna Loy later). In *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* (1934), she was Henrietta, the romantically rebellious younger sister of Elizabeth Barrett, and in George Cukor's classic film of David Copperfield (1935) she was Dora, David's silly and ill-fated wife.

She was a flirtatious relative of Anna (Greta Garbo) in *Anna Karenina* (1935) and in Tod Browning's bizarre *Devil Doll* (1936) she was the daughter of a wrongly convicted banker who gets his revenge by re-

ducing his enemies to the size of dolls. With Allan Jones, she provided the romantic element in *A Day at the Races* (1937), starring the Marx Brothers - O'Sullivan played the owner of the sanatorium over which Dr Quackenbush (Groucho) is put in charge - and she came to England in 1938 to film *A Yank at Oxford* in which she vied with Vivian Leigh for Robert Taylor. (Leigh had been O'Sullivan's best friend at Roehampton when they were girls). One of the film's uncredited writers was F Scott Fitzgerald, who reportedly developed a romantic admiration for the actress and built up her part. O'Sullivan was unhappy, though, that she was primarily identified with the role of Jane, and asked the studio to release her from the Tarzan series. A script was written in which the couple would have a son (adopted to placate the censors), and Jane would be killed by a hostile tribe, but when word leaked out, public protest proved so great that the studio reshoot the ending of *Tarzan Finds a Son* (1939) and gave O'Sullivan a raise in salary.

She was given the role of Jane Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice* (1940) but this was her last major MGM film, and when her contract expired after *Tarzan's New York Adventure* (1942), O'Sullivan settled down to raise her large family. She returned to films in 1948 in her husband's fine film noir *The Big Clock*, playing the wife of a magazine editor (Ray Milland), and followed this with another of Farrow's films *Where Danger Lies* (1950) as a girlfriend of the doctor (Robert Mitchum).

In the mid-1950s she hosted a television show, *Irish Heritage*, but spent most of her time nursing Mia through a bout of polio. In 1958 her son Michael was killed in an aeroplane crash while taking flying lessons and in 1963 her husband died.

O'Sullivan had by then begun an active career in the theatre and in 1962 had opened in a hit comedy *Never Too Late*, receiving the best notices of her career as a middle-



O'Sullivan (Jane) and Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan) in *Tarzan and His Mate*, 1934

aged wife who becomes pregnant. Wrote *Variety*: "She looks great and handles light comedy with a warm, gracious flair." She starred with the same leading man, Paul Ford, in the screen version (1955). She also starred in the Broadway version of the British comedy *No Sex Please, We're British* (1973), gave an excellent performance in an all-star revival of Paul Osborn's *Morning At Seven* (1983), and continued until a few years ago to be active in television.

O'Sullivan often professed a desire to remarry: "Children don't take the place of a husband," she said. "Many women - and I am one

of them - need both." In the late 1960s she fell in love with the actor Robert Ryan and it was thought that they would wed, but he then became ill and died in 1973, with O'Sullivan at his bedside. In 1983 she finally married again, to James E. Cushing, a building contractor.

A liberal, outspoken woman - when her two sons were arrested for possession of marijuana she commented that if youths want to indulge in activities it is their decision - she played mother to Mia in Woody Allen's *Hannah and Her Sisters* (1986), but Allen fired her from his film *September* (1987) and five years later, when his romance with her

daughter broke up, she denounced him as a "desperate and evil man". Over the years she came to appreciate the eternal appeal of the Tarzan films and their place in cinema history. "It's nice to be immortal," she stated, "and film has given us immortality."

Tom Yallance
Maureen Paul O'Sullivan, actress, born Boyle, Co. Roscommon, Ireland 17 May 1911; married 1936 John Farrow (died 1963); two sons, four daughters, and one son deceased; 1983 James E. Cushing; died Phoenix, Arizona 22 June 1998.



Leet's *Digging for Victory at Eton*, 1941

Sotheby's Picture Library

Gerald Leet

GERALD LEET was an art master, a painter, a book collector and man of mystery.

As a neo-Romantic portrait painter he was an exact contemporary of Carol Weight, with whom as a young man he shared a studio. He experimented with Surrealism and in his last years produced collage. From humble beginnings he worked his way into accommodation at Windsor Castle, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother having commissioned from him a series of portraits of her staff. He served as official war artist in New Delhi and taught at Eton. Nothing gave him greater pleasure than to compartmentalise his life and friends and to tantalise dealers with offers to sell books and paintings which often failed to materialise.

Gerald Mackenzie Leet - he sometimes called himself Gerald Mackenzie - was born in London in 1913, studied at the Goldsmiths' School of Art from 1929 to 1934. From 1934 to 1937 he was a student at the Royal Academy of Art, and for a further year he enrolled at the Courtauld. His first teaching appointment was at Ealing School of Art. He seems to have spent much of the Second World War in South Africa and Egypt, and it was in 1945 that he came to the attention of Lord Wavell when he was Viceroy of India; it was Wavell who arranged his appoint-

ment as official war artist in New Delhi.

In September 1945 Leet was appointed assistant drawing master at Eton, where he worked under the legendary Wilfred Blunt, art master from 1938 to 1959. He remained at Eton until 1949, when he moved into Windsor Castle, working three days a week as a teacher at Brighton College of Art while executing a series of portraits for the Queen - now the Queen Mother. He specialised in portraits of the great and famous, claiming intimate friendship with the Mountbattens, Field Marshal Auchinleck and assorted Turkish princes and Greek princesses.

It was in 1933 that Leet met the fellow art student he came to admire but whose sometimes vitriolic pen he learnt to fear: Denton Welch was two years his junior, and in the early days of their uneasy friendship Welch spent a good deal of time and energy fending off Leet's unwelcome advances. But Leet was precisely the sort of person by whom Welch was both fascinated and repelled, and he was destined to be immortalised as Mark Lynch in Welch's most famous novel, *A Voice Through a Cloud* (published posthumously in 1950), and as Gerard Hope in *A Novel Fragment* (in *A Lost Sheep*, 1951). Welch's comprehensive account of his three years at Goldsmiths'.

It was Gerald Leet who, uninvited, decided to accompany Denton Welch to tea with Walter Sickert, a hilarious adventure which provided Welch, in 1942, with his first published prose, in Cyril Connolly's *Horizon*. Sickert's farewell to the two young men - "Come again when you can't stop so long!" - has often been misquoted but never improved upon.

Leet painted Welch, and amassed a small but valuable collection of Welch's work. One of Leet's paintings was sold to an American collector in 1990 for £14,500, the same year that *Digging for Victory*, a painting executed in 1941, was sold for £3,800. In 1997 it was purchased at Sotheby's by Eton College for £4,500. Not surprisingly, Leet exhibited at the Eton Art Gallery; more ambitiously, at the Isobar Gallery in Hampstead and at the Halifax and Manchester City Art Galleries.

Denton Welch had the grace to admit that Leet was a better draughtsman than he, and he learnt a lot from him, but he could not resist recording in print some unattractive, or at any rate boring and snobbish, traits in Leet's complex character. And, although Leet retained fond memories of Welch, he always felt hurt by his treatment of him in print, albeit having his name disguised. He resolutely declined to co-operate over Welch's biography.

Leet had a brother who predeceased him, but no other family, depending for intermittent entertainment on a wide circle of friends, who recall him as a brilliant conversationalist and mimic but an inveterate name-dropper. He lived for many years in Brighton, in a modest flat crammed with objects d'art, rare books and fine paintings. In old age he assumed the mantle of a sparkling and amusing elderly raconteur. Yet he remained a very private person.

Whether there was ever any great secret in need of suppression may be doubted. More likely, he enjoyed subterfuge for its own sake. He would suddenly appear in a local bookshop with some precious object that might or might not be for sale, and as suddenly disappear again for months. He seemed always to be putting people to some sort of test, and not many passed. Those few who did pass must have been richly rewarded.

In his late years he suffered two strokes, and finally moved into a Brighton nursing home, where he died after returning the previous day to his flat to retrieve some of his favourite paintings.

Michael De-la-Noy
Gerald Mackenzie Leet, painter, teacher and collector; born London 1913; died Brighton 18 June 1998.

Tom Richards

THE LONG tradition of journalism in Wales has produced many newsmen who have cut their teeth with provincial papers and then gone on to make their mark in London. But Tom Richards, professional to his fingertips, was content to stay at home.

Born in Towy, Merioneth, in 1909, but brought up in Dolgellau, Richards was the son of a station-master at what is known to English tourists as Dovey Junction. He spoke Welsh as his first language, and all his creative writing was done in Welsh, but it was in English that he chose to work as a journalist. It was a language that he loved, and wrote with precision and panache.

His career began in 1927 when, straight from school, he landed his first job as a reporter with the *Cambric News*, in Cardiganshire, after which the ink was in his blood. Eight years later he joined the *Western Mail* in Cardiff, a paper then

owned by Lord Thomson, and worked there for seven years as a sub-editor.

Exempted from call-up in 1939 because he had lost a leg at the age of 15 as a result of tuberculosis, he was appointed campaigns officer with the Welsh Region of the Ministry of Information in 1942. Moving to the BBC as publicity officer in 1945, he became an indispensable member of its staff at a time when resources were scarce and programmes made on shoestring budgets called for ingenuity and perseverance.

Although later in life he was to regret his lack of higher education and the fact that he had not even trained as a reporter, he was widely read in what he called "an unsystematic and time-wasting way".

In 1952 he was promoted to the post of News Editor at the BBC in Cardiff, where he pioneered both radio and television news. Among the young men he took on as news-readers was Michael Aspel.

This was a difficult era for the Corporation in Wales. There was growing pressure for better news coverage in both Welsh and English and for a wider variety of programmes. Conservative and Labour allegations of Nationalist bias further complicated an already fraught operation, and Richards was seen as the man who could cast an unbiased eye over Welsh broadcasting, because he kept his politics to himself.

Together with his assistants Wyn Roberts (later a Tory Secretary of State for Wales, and now Lord Roberts of Conwy) and John Ormond Thomas, who was to make his mark as a poet and film-maker, Richards was given the laborious task of working out how many Plaid Cymru members had taken part in talks and discussions in 1955. Several months later, it was announced that of the 360 speakers in that year's programmes, only 15 were known to be party members. The Ince Report of 1956, charged

with looking into the matter, came to the conclusion that some criticism of a lack of balance over the previous six years are justified, but that "if Nationalism in the widest sense is considered, then it is difficult for the Broadcasting Council in Wales to avoid such charges... as it has the duty to pay full regard to the distinctive cultural interests of Our People in Wales". The Nais under the Mats scare was over.

Richards took over as the BBC's representative in west Wales in 1965, remaining in that post until his retirement six years later. It was there, at the west Wales branch of the BBC in Alexandra Road, Swansea, that I first met him - a street-wise man with a genuine interest in younger colleagues and not averse to offering them advice and relating mildly scurrilous anecdotes, especially about members of the broadcasting establishment in Wales. "News is what they don't want

you to hear," was one of his favourite axioms.

His genial, rather shy personality marked a mischievous sense of humour which is to be seen at its best in his plays, especially *Y Cymro Cyffredin* ("The Ordinary Welshman", 1960) and *Mi Glynnaf Dynwr Lais* ("I Hear a Tender Voice", 1982). His choice of Welsh as the medium for his plays was explained in a nonsense manner in an essay he wrote for my book *Artists in Wales* (1971): "I think in dialogue, I talk to myself, and when I hear other people talking, they do so in Welsh."

Writing of the prospects for literature in the Welsh language, he referred to what he called the Ozymandias syndrome: "In the all-English desert of 21st-century Wales, some diligent researcher may stumble on this mysterious body of writing and will no doubt be impressed by its glorious past, if he manages to decipher it. We still

have time, though, to try the other way." It comes as something of a surprise to learn that he chose to bring up his two sons without the language.

Richards's masterpiece is the novel *Maer' Olyn Gysgredig* ("All is Sacred", 1986), set in the fictitious town of Llanathrod ("Llanelle", where a miracle is reported by the local paper. The story is taken up by the London dailies and is about to be made into a film, much to the consternation of the chapels and the town's bigwigs.

Out of this farcical little story, not unlike that of *Clochmerle*, the author pokes a good deal of delicious fun at the expense of small-town attitudes; it is one of the funniest novels ever published in Welsh. I can still hear him chuckling as he explained to me how he had based much of it on his own experience as a newsmen of more than 40 years.

Melc Stephens



Thomas Hugh Richards, journalist and playwright; born Towy, Merioneth 28 September 1909; News Editor, BBC (Cardiff) 1952-63; representative, BBC, West Wales 1963-69; married 1944 Aelwen Williams (two sons); died Swansea 19 June 1998.

Professor Paul Stirling

PAUL STIRLING was a social anthropologist of distinction whose career exemplifies central changes in the discipline over the last half-century. He pioneered research in rural Turkey and into "peasants" (a word he disliked, for he felt it slighted the dignity of the villagers he knew and loved). He promoted important extensions of applied anthropology in Britain and innovative research technologies.

When the University of Kent was established in 1965, he was recruited from the London School of Economics to head a joint department of sociology and social anthropology. At Kent he stimulated great intellectual creativity, without ever losing sight of the moral and practical purposes of the social sciences and obligations to students. Outstanding scholars matured in both wings of his creation, but it was typical of Stirling that he claimed only that it was "perhaps the happiest department in the country".

Paul Stirling studied Classics and Philosophy at Oxford before switching to Social Anthropology for his DPhil. British social anthropology was then at a turning point. Victorian evolutionism, fascination with the exotic and "armchair" research of the sort practised by Sir James Frazer had been definitively rejected in the inter-war decades. Under Bronislaw Malinowski at the LSE anthropologists came instead to study tribal societies as they functioned in the present, and to emphasise the methods of intensive fieldwork.

When Stirling was initiated into what was still a very small professional community his supervisor Edward Evans-Pritchard was already trying to shift the discipline away from synchronic functionalism and applied social science in the colonies. Instead he called for a serious engagement with history, and encouraged his research student to undertake fieldwork not in a tribal colony but in a village in the heart of Anatolia. The work which resulted, including the classic monograph *Turkish Village* (1965), though not dealing systematically with the Ottoman past, more than matched up to Malinowski's high standards for fieldwork and offered rich insights into the transformations begun by Kemal Atatürk. Most unusually in the discipline, it proved a landmark in not one but two regional traditions: the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Stirling also influenced work on agrarian communities elsewhere in the world and became well known outside his discipline. Although he carried out further projects in south Italy, it is primarily on the Turkish village work that his academic reputation rests.

Stirling revisited "his" village (in fact two settlements in the vicinity of Kayseri) many times and made careful studies of the dramatic changes experienced by villagers as they migrated to the cities, including cities in West Germany. He made films with them and made all his rich materials, including his original fieldwork diaries, available to other researchers electronically. He worked closely with many Turks, including young researchers that he himself trained. These contacts brought endless debates, sometimes heated, about the meaning of terms such as modernisation and development.

He saw the transformation of his village as emblematic of the incorporation of the rural masses into the new nation-state, and this Turkish case was in turn an instance of the forces that were transforming the whole of the "developing world". Stirling recognised that these processes brought massive injustices and cultural losses. But he also saw the many opportunities and benefits that rapid social engineering could bring to

He was prone to self-doubt, even public self-abasement

a desperately poor society. He therefore spent a lot of energy arguing against condemnations of modernisation processes from the Marxist left, and also against idealised representations of tradition and cultural difference.

His own intellectual position was close to that of his longtime friend and LSE colleague Ernest Gellner, whom he admired not only for his clarity and originality but also for his self-confidence and prolific output. Stirling by contrast was notoriously slow to publish and prone to self-doubt, even public self-abasement. Yet, though he regularly dismissed the value of his own contributions, he tackled head-on complex issues of causality in the explanation of social change, and was ahead of his time in his calls for anthropologists to pay more attention to cognition and to the distribution of knowledge in society.

His practical legacy to the discipline in Britain is substantial, for he was the tireless force behind a series of initiatives from the end of the 1970s which have helped anthropologists to become increasingly active outside the univer-



sities, in organisations, in policymaking, in overseas development.

Stirling followed up these concerns outside his academic life. His motivation was deeply moral, even religious. Christianity played an important role in his family background. He rejected it intellectually, and Islam is the most conspicuous omission in his writings on Turkey; but he never lost his religious sensibility and took a pastor's humane interest in the welfare of his colleagues and his research students.

The Stirling presence continued to dominate anthropology at Kent long after his formal retirement. He held on to his office, and to a unique ability to make the most devastating contributions to seminars after seemingly sleeping through the greater part of the talk. When, last spring, the Association of Social Anthropologists held its annual conference in Canterbury, his presentation was a *tour de force*.

Occasional hitches in his efforts to master computing technologies seldom affected his good-humour and active will to help those around him, especially stu-

dents. The only group excluded from this basic generosity was the university administration: he had no sympathy with attempts to introduce modern management methods into the academic world.

There were many facets to Paul Stirling. From some angles you saw a rigorous scholar pursuing truth and precision, from others a tormented Puritan; from some a feisty English radical, from others a genial conservative, even a patriarch. But no one who knew his wife Margaret and how much he put into their family life would endorse this last simplistic label. She shared with him that original fieldwork in Turkey, and everything else for more than 50 years.

Chris Hann

Arthur Paul Stirling, social anthropologist: born Coulsdon, Surrey 13 October 1920; Lecturer in Social Anthropology, London School of Economics 1952-65; Professor of Sociology and Social Anthropology, University of Kent 1965-84 (Emeritus); married 1948 Margaret Urrvin (two sons, two daughters); died Gillingham, Kent 17 June 1998.

LITERARY NOTES

PHILIP CALLOW

The embarrassment of literary fame

IT IS hard to think of any other writer of genius who not only questioned his own worth, but also the very worth of his art. These crises of self-doubt assailed Chekhov from time to time throughout his life, and are to some extent tribute to his extraordinary modesty. But why was he nearly obsessed in this way, and so often?

He began as a doctor first and a writer second; he saw writing as a frivolous activity. His first writings were scarcely literature at all. Needing money badly, he wrote facetious sketches for the comic papers. When he developed literary ambitions proper he was seen by the establishment as an entertainer, and was denied access to their prestigious journals. Publication of the masterpiece *The Step* changed all that - everyone was convinced that a new star had risen. Everyone, that is, except the young star himself, who was haunted by the fear that he would be exposed as the impostor he really was.

No happier as a doctor than as a famous author, he still saw medicine as the more honourable profession. He told his brother to put "Brother of the Distinguished Author" on his visiting card, and wrote to his mentor Survin: "Russian life bashes the Russian till you have to scrape him off the floor... In Western Europe people perish because life is too crowded and close; in Russia they perish because it is too spacious..."

In Moscow he lost his way. Fame half seduced, half embarrassed him. In reality he felt like a "mountebank". Being a writer in 19th-century Russia involved commitment to a role, and he was deeply uncertain, not knowing whether to be ashamed or proud of what he had done. Out of his confusion arose dreams of travel, of exile, of escape. The new intelligentsia accused him of writing coldly about human suffering. To silence his critics, but also to silence the voice inside himself, he proposed a journey across the wastes of Siberia to investigate the penal settlements of Sakhalin, Russia's Devil's Island.

Chekhov was a sickly and inexperienced traveller; the project struck his friends as suicidal. The Trans-Siberian Railway had yet to be built so he travelled by river steamers and a hired tarantass which was springless and open. Asked by Survin to account for this madness he replied that



Chekhov: felt like a 'mountebank'

he was bored and dissatisfied with all he wrote, the very word "art" frightened him, and he confessed: "I want passionately to hide myself somewhere for five years and engage in serious, painstaking work. I must teach myself to learn everything from the beginning, because as a writer I'm a complete ignoramus. I must write with a good conscience, I must spit on a great many things..." He did labour at his scientific project on and off for five years, but in spite of himself classic stories poured from him.

His innate distrust of the theatre prompted one critic recently to see his dramatic works as attempts to undermine it, as essentially hostile. Certainly the first production of *The Seagull* was such a disaster that he swore he would never write another play, and told Survin, "It isn't the play that was unsuccessful, it was my own person."

One should not forget Chekhov's astonishing resilience. He was literally dying when he wrote *The Cherry Orchard*. He came to believe that by showing us to ourselves as we really are he would somehow improve us and the world. His irony is supremely modern and so is his unease. His desire to repudiate the lies and vulgarity in which he found himself and to sever connections with his milieu led him to make a stand against charlatans in the only way he knew by evolving as an artist of immense refinement and great delicacy of judgement.

Philip Callow is the author of *Chekhov: the hidden ground* (Constable, £16.99)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

ALLEN: Professor Harry Cranbrook Allen, died peacefully on 21 June 1998, in Philadelphia, USA, aged 81. Beloved husband of Mary (deceased), much loved father of Julia, Gloria and Franklin. Father-in-law of Terry and Sally. Grandfather of Jamie and Toby and Rowan (deceased) and Tanya. Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford. Professor of American History, University College, London and University of East Anglia. Memorial service at St Michael's Church, Begbroke, Woodstock, Oxon. Wednesday 1 July, 11.30am. Donations in lieu of flowers, in memory of Harry Allen, to Leukaemia Research Fund, 0171-465 0101.

BP PORTRAIT AWARD

Mr Bruce Oldfield presented the BP Portrait Award 1998 to Mr Thomas Watson, for his portrait *Jude*, in a ceremony held yesterday at the National Portrait Gallery, London WC2. The second prize was awarded to Ms Frances Borden for *Self-Portrait* and the third prize to Mr Clive Smith for *A Space*. Mr Nicholas Archer, Mr Lewis Cooper, Ms Sadie Lee and Ms Julia Wilson were highly commended.

BIRTHDAYS

Dame Margaret Anstee, former United Nations Under-Secretary General, 72; Mr Peter Blake, painter, 66; Sir Jack Bole, former Director-General, National Trust, 73; Rear-Admiral Richard Cobbold, 66; Mr Cyril Fletcher, comedian and broadcaster, 86; Mr Derek Foster MP, 61; General Sir Roland Guy, former Chief of Staff, HQ, BAOR, 70; Mr Eddie Large, comedian, 56; Mr Sidney Lumet, film director, 74; Mr Douglas McAdam, ambassador to Kazakhstan, 54; Mr Roy Marsden, actor, 57; Mr George Michael, singer, 35; Mr Richard Morgan, Warden, Radley College, Oxford, 58; The Hon Sir Charles Morrison, former MP 66; Sir Gerard Neale, former MP 57; Sir Kenneth Oxford, former Chief Constable, Merseyside Police, 74; Lord Ravensdale (Nicholas Mosley), writer, 75; Miss Carly Simon, singer and songwriter, 53; Mr Larry Smith, former trade union leader, 76; Mr Robert Venturi, architect, 73; Mr Moray Watson, actor, 70; Miss Doreen Wells, ballerina, 61; The Rev Keith Wilkinson, Headmaster, King's School, Canterbury, 50; Professor Sir Arnold Wolfendale, former Astronomer Royal, 71.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: John Horne Tooke, politician and philologist, 1736; Friedrich August

Leberecht Jakob, singer and composer, 1803; Antonio Gaudi y Cornet, architect, 1852; Walter Hermann Nernst, physicist, 1864; Robert Erskine Childers, writer and Irish nationalist, 1870; William De Mille, film and theatre producer and writer, 1878; George Francis Abbott, actor, director, writer and producer, 1887; Hermann Julius Oberth, rocket pioneer, 1894; Louis, first Earl Mountbatten of Burma, 1900; George Orwell (Eric Blair), writer and essayist, 1903; Willard van Orman Quine, philosopher, 1908; Deaths: Anthony Woodville, second Earl Rivers, statesman, executed 1483; John Marston, playwright and satirist, 1634; William Smellie, printer and antiquary, 1795; Ernest Theodor Amadeus Hoffman, writer, composer and caricaturist, 1822; Baron Antoine Jean Gros, painter, 1835; George Armstrong Custer, cavalry officer, killed in battle 1876; Margaret Oliphant, author, 1897; Sir Laurence Alma-Tadema, painter, 1912; Thomas Eakins, portrait painter, 1918; Colin Clive (Clive Greig), actor, 1937; Leon Quartermaine, actor, 1967; Johnny (John Herndon) Mercer, composer, lyricist and singer, 1976. On this day: the heirs of Louis the Pious fought the indecisive Battle of Fontenoy, 841; the Confession of Augsburg was presented to Charles V and read to the Diet, 1530; Samuel de Champlain hoisted

ed the French flag in Nova Scotia at France's first settlement in North America, 1604; Virginia became the 10th of the United States, 1788; the Seven Days' Battles (American Civil War) began, 1862; Lucien Smith of Ohio, US took out the first patent for barbed wire, 1867; the Battle of the Little Big Horn River was fought - Custer's Last Stand, 1876; the *Strand Magazine* published the first Sherlock Holmes story by Arthur Conan Doyle, 1891; Dr Douglas Hyde, a Gaelic scholar and Protestant, was inaugurated as the first president of Eire, 1938; the RAF made a 1,000-bomber raid on Bremen, Germany, 1942; General Sir Claude Auchinleck became commander of the Eighth Army, 1942; the Battle of Caen began, 1944; South Korea was invaded by troops from North Korea, 1950; Erskine Childers became president of the Irish Republic, succeeding Eamon de Valera, 1973; Mozambique became independent of Portugal, 1975. Today is the Feast Day of St Adalbert of Egmond, St Eusebia, St Fehronia, St Gallicanus, St Gohard, St Maximus of Turin, St Moloc or Luan, St Prosper of Aquitaine, St Prosper of Reggio, St Thea and St William of Vercelli or Monte Vergine.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Marion Carlisle, "Money (iv): Mari-

nus van Reyerswaele, *Two Tux Gathers*, 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Sophia Strang Steel, Anna Hillcoat-Imanishi, Shayne Lang, Nick Fraying, "Some Conservation Techniques", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Andrew Kennedy, "The Primitive in Modern Art", 1pm. British Museum: Paul Collins, "Hurrians, Kassites and Hittites", 11.30am. National Portrait Gallery: John Cooper, "English 16th-century Portraiture in a European Context", 1.10pm. London School of Economics, London WC2: Professor William Julius Wilson, "When Work Disappears: race and urban poverty in the global economy", 5.30pm.

DINNERS

European-Atlantic Group The Hon Philip Lader, US Ambassador, was the guest of honour at a meeting of the European-Atlantic Group held yesterday at St Ermin's Hotel, London SW1. He spoke on "The Inevitable Relationship (Europe and the US)". Viscount Montgomery of Alamein presided. Lord Dahrendorf, President, also spoke.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr H.W.R. Eccles QC, Mr S.D. Batten QC, Miss C.M. Miskin and Mr J.L. Powell QC, to be Masters of the Bench of the Middle Temple.

and Croquet Club, London SW19.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; No 7 Company Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

Council was not liable for boys' injuries

THURSDAY LAW REPORT

25 JUNE 1998

Jolley v London Borough of Sutton
Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Judge)
19 June 1998

NOTWITHSTANDING THAT it had been negligent in allowing an abandoned boat which was in a dangerous condition to remain on its land, a local council was not liable for injuries suffered by a 14-year-old boy who had jacked the boat up in an attempt to repair it. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of the London Borough of Sutton against a finding of liability for injuries suffered by the plaintiff, and an award in his favour of £22,710 damages.

The appellant council owned a piece of "amenity land" on which a boat had been left lying for at least two years. The plaintiff, a 14-year-old schoolboy, and a friend saw the boat and decided to repair it. They worked on the boat, in the evenings and at weekends, for about six weeks. Whilst they were working underneath the boat, which they had jacked up using a car jack and some wood, it started to rock and landed on the plaintiff's back, causing him severe spinal injuries. As a result he was a paraplegic with severe complications, and was confined to a wheelchair.

The plaintiff issued proceedings against the council, claiming that it had been in breach of the common duty of care as defined in s 2 of the Occupiers Liability Act 1957. The judge concluded that the boat was something which it could be anticipated would be an attraction to children, and that it was reasonably foreseeable that children, including those of the age of the plaintiff, would meddle with the boat and be at risk of some physical injury. He

found that the council ought to have removed and disposed of the boat, not merely because it was an eyesore, but because it was a trap. The council appealed, contending that the accident in which the plaintiff had sustained his injuries was one which the council could not reasonably have foreseen and that, notwithstanding their negligence in not removing the boat prior to the accident, that negligence was not causative of the plaintiff's loss.

Michael de Nascarrow QC and Howard Palmer (Watmore) for the council; Brian Langstaff QC and Paul Spencer (Rowley Ashworth, Wimbeldon) for the plaintiff.

Lord Woolf MR said that there was no case of which counsel on either side were aware where want of care on the part of a defendant had been established, but a plaintiff, who was a child, had failed to succeed because the circumstances of the accident were not foreseeable. To that extent, if the present appeal succeeded, the result would be novel.

Notwithstanding that the boat was both an allurement and a trap, and that the council had been negligent in failing to remove it, the attractiveness of the boat to children and its dangerous condition had not been established to be part of the causes of the accident. The immediate cause of the accident had been the actions of the two boys in jacking the boat up so that they could work underneath it in such a way that it had become unstable and had fallen on the plaintiff.

The question which had to be asked was whether the accident which had caused the plaintiff's injuries was of a different type and kind from anything that the council could have foreseen, and, in answering that question, it was necessary to have well in mind that the council should have appreciated that it was difficult to anticipate what children would do when playing with a boat such as that in the present case. It was important not only to consider the precise accident which had occurred but the class of accident. However, what the plaintiff had been engaged on was an activity very different from normal play.

Even making full allowance for the unpredictability of children's behaviour, it was not reasonably foreseeable that an accident could have occurred as a result of the boys' activities, nor could any reasonably similar accident have been foreseen. The court's decision was a tragedy for the plaintiff and those who cared for him. The court very much regretted that. None the less the appeal had to be allowed.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
protagonist n.

AS ANY student of Greek drama will know, a protagonist (from *protos* "first" + *agonistes* "an actor") means the main character in a play. Roles of secondary and tertiary importance may be taken by the deuteragonist and tritagonist if necessary.

The phrases "chief protagonist" and "main pro-

tagonist" are tautological yet, of the 4,908 protagonists on our newspaper database, 419 are qualified as "chief" or "main". Errors arise from both

ends of this word. The *proto-* at the start is mistaken for the Latin *pro-* and the word is used incorrectly to mean a supporter or proponent, while the tail encourages its use as a synonym for antagonist. Chambers 20th Century Dictionary calls such usage "non-standard". We purists call it "wrong".

8/FEATURES

Portadown has stolen the Shankill's crown. The West Belfast district, long the spiritual heartland of Ulster Unionism, went "soft", some would say, when it embraced the Good Friday agreement. But you can rely on Portadown. Portadown will always be there with its battle lines at the ready and its defiant upholding of the Union; its pictures of the Queen and its betrayed, angry people.

Denis Watson is one of them. He is challenging Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble as independent candidate for the new Northern Irish assembly in today's election. His party is the hastily formed United Unionist umbrella group, created to represent the No voters after last month's Yes vote. He's got just a few streets left to canvass on the Protestant working class Corcoran Estate when the skies tear open: "I feel terribly guilty," he says, looking at his cheap, hastily printed blue and white leaflets. "These are all waterlogged and in a terrible state. But I haven't got many left now so I hope people don't mind too much."

Watson opens the gate to the nearest house and walks up the path of an immaculate, green-carpeted garden, staring at pots of orange lilies as he goes. "Hello, I'm with the United Unionists," he says. "I wonder if I can rely on your vote? I can? Well good, thanks very much."

Instead of smiling broadly and turning to go, as any experienced politician would when speaking to the converted, Watson gets into discussion about the best way to grow the famously symbolic orange lilies.

Portadown is a tough town. Nationalist and Loyalist communities are divided by a canyon of sectarianism. The breakaway Loyalist Volunteer Force, the small, hard-line paramilitary group, holds court on some of the estates. But beyond that, you have Protestants who staunchly believe their cultural identity, with its bands, sacred marching routes, bowler hats and Union Jacks, is being whittled away by the rest of the world.

Watson is carrying their hopes. He's never had any political ambition, never even stood for the local council, but he's been thrust into the political bear-pit by a community awash with hard men and no leaders.

When David Trimble triumphantly clasped hands with Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party and Ulster's King of No Surrender, at Drumcree's Orange Parade in 1995, Portadown took the then marginal Ulster Unionist to their hearts. They elected Trimble as MP for Westminster and effectively helped catapult him into his present position as leader of the official Ulster Unionist Party.

But since their leader declared himself in favour of the peace process, things are different round here. Although the people of Portadown are vehemently against the accord, many say they would never vote for Ian Paisley and his Democratic Unionist crew. Traditionally, they would support the UUP but their party, they say, has let them down.

Jane, a local young mother, puffs



Denis Watson, standing against David Trimble in Portadown: 'There's real hate around here. I still find the strength of feeling surprising' Crispin Rodwell

How angry is this man? Today we'll find out

For many Unionists, Ulster's new deal is a bad deal – and in today's assembly elections, they will vote for hardliners like Denis Watson. By Nicole Veash

furiously on her bag as four-year-old Emma runs round the garden in the pouring rain. "Trimble doesn't show his face round here nowadays," she says, blowing smoke impatiently through her nose. "If I ever see him, I'll give him a piece of my mind."

"We all trusted him. We really believed he would stand up for the Unionists. But he's singing a different tune now and has made us look like complete fools."

Watson hands her a soggy leaflet. Later, he says: "There's real hate round here. I still find the strength

of feeling surprising. They feel angry and let down by David," he says, carefully choosing his rival's first name. I might be a reluctant politician because never in my wildest dreams would I choose a political life if I thought there was another option."

Watson is very popular around Portadown. The 46-year-old is grandly titled County Armagh Grand Master of the Orange Order, Ulster's equivalent of a grandmaster Freemason.

"People look to me because of my position in the Orange," he says. "I

would never have dreamed of standing against David but so many people asked me to because they feel very let down. If there was another candidate from our party standing against the Good Friday agreement in Portadown, there is no way I would ever have stood."

One woman, whose house looked onto the green fields surrounding Drumcree Church, quietly explained her position. "Trimble was always our man in the past, but he won't support us now. My whole family marches in the Orange Parade at Drumcree and we are never

going to give that route up. I'll vote for Denis here on Thursday because somebody needs to tell the world that we are still here and won't be silenced by our politicians."

The disillusionment and isolation is clear. "These people already feel as though they are under siege," says Watson, a former UUP member himself. "They don't want people like me wrecking the new assembly, but they do want to make sure their voices are heard."

As we stand talking on the corner of Drumcree Grove, while the red, white and blue bunting flaps fu-

riously in the rain-soaked wind, three young men stare at us from the other side of the street. For a moment, no-one says anything. Then one asks: "Who are you? If you are Trimble's people, you'd better get out."

The expression on the young man's face changes when Watson assures him he's got the wrong man.

"I've got two sons to bring up," explains 34-year-old Steve, a builder, "and I want to make sure they grow up knowing our culture. I'm not an extremist in some paramil-

itary organisation, or even a real right winger. I am just typical of the people who live round here. We will not let the likes of Trimble let us down again."

House after house, to a man and a woman, the residents of this well-cared-for estate said they would all be voting for No candidates in today's election.

"We've been getting reactions like this all week. I know our message has stronger resonance in areas like this, but you've got to remember," says Denis Watson, "that these people previously voted David into office."

Implicitly, Trimble's party has underestimated the strength of feeling in pockets of his Upper Bann constituency. The UUP has already issued several personal attacks on Watson, condemning his betrayal of party and criticising him for not voicing his concerns in their party meetings.

"It sounds really naive," says Watson, "but my eyes have really been opened since I started campaigning. I never expected personal attacks but I can only assume they think I've got a good chance of getting a seat in the assembly. Although I wish I was so sure."

During the 1996 Drumcree standoff, when the local Orange march ended in a pitched battle between Protestants and Catholics, Watson was only one of a few influential Orange leaders willing to speak the language of resolution. "My position hasn't hardened today," he says. "I'm not going to use Drumcree as a political issue to get me into office. I've never wanted office. I don't reject the whole agreement but I do have serious problems with things like the prisoners issue. I'm not naively thinking that all the Orange men of Portadown are going to vote for me. They won't. But people here tell me I'm the reasonable alternative to David."

As the rain subsides, more people come out onto the streets to chat with the canvassers. One elderly man brings out a large, round sheet of glass. On it he has engraved a picture of Drumcree Church, the legend "We Will Walk" and the years 1995, 1996 and 1997. There is a blank under the last date. "What shall I do about 1998?" the man asks. "You put it in," says Watson.

"And 1999 too," shouts someone from next door's front garden.

If a strong contingent of 30 No candidates, like Denis Watson, are elected to the 108-member assembly, they will constitute a threat to Ulster's new deal. But seasoned Ulster watchers say that at best 25 No candidates will get seats today, still enough to be a constant reminder that large sections of the Protestant community have not signed up to the Good Friday agreement.

One local sage-once said only when you resolve Portadown, will you resolve the Troubles. As the rest of Ulster rushes to embrace a new uncertain future in today's election, Portadown's residents remain shoulder-to-shoulder: a vanguard against the rollercoaster change sweeping the province. But the silence won't last for long. Portadown isn't just another wound in the body of Unionism. It's a limb, about to fall off. And in coming weeks, this last bastion will transform itself into the bitterest battle ground.

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You'll see plenty of adverts for savings accounts offering bumper rates of interest but it's not until you read the small print that you realise that many are destined to drop after a few months. Others have so many restrictions on withdrawal you'd be as well putting your money in a long term notice account.

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China's hidden masses

Continued from page one
make a profit. A group petition signed by 30 restaurant owners is demanding a rebate.

"We are in negotiations, but if they don't agree, in three days time we will pull down the shutters and hold a protest. I mean it," said one. These are people who are trying to take control of their lives.

China's emerging urban middle class already has done so to a great extent. Mr Clinton is unlikely to call by for a hamburger at "Bob and Betty's", a 500-seat Sino-foreign joint-venture fast-food restaurant in downtown Xian, frequented by the city's pager-decked twentysomethings. So he will not meet people like Cui Guangzhen, the 39-year-old manageress, and her husband, who has set up a company manufacturing bank cards.

Their aspirations are instantly recognisable. "My family's living conditions have improved a lot in terms of income, my daughter's schooling, working conditions, and even our electrical appliances." Their home boasts a colour television, computer, VCD and video recorder, she said.

Under Zhu Rongji's housing reforms, she and her husband have purchased their apartment from the former state work unit, paying 20,000 yuan (£1,500) for a flat which is now worth about 300,000 yuan (£23,000) at market values. "We are pleased to own our home. We would now like to buy a motorbike, which would be very convenient," she said.

Lu Bingyin, a 21-year-old English language student at Xian Foreign Languages University, is another face of "new



Unemployed by the old city's east gate, and a trader with child in Xian Teresa Poole

China". "I am in the last year of university studies who will be assigned jobs by the government, but actually we are free to find our own jobs if we want to," she said. Ms Lu, with fluent English, has got herself hired by a Sino-Belgian pharmaceutical joint venture company in Xian.

She described the Xian of her youth: "The streets were quite narrow, and there were none of these new buildings. Ten years ago we had an 18 square metre apartment for a family with three members; now we have 40 square metres. And I think salaries in the past 10 years have doubled."

Mr Clinton will probably stay at the Hyatt hotel, but will have no opportunity to wander the night market just around the corner, a one-kilometre stretch of road lined with food stalls and downtown outdoor restaurants still busy at 10pm.

Here, for 5 yuan (40p), one can be serenaded with a song from a guitar-strumming peasant girl from central Anhui province, some 900 kilometres to the east. She rolled up in Xian

with a group of friends a fortnight ago and business was good, she said. These are some of China's estimated 100 million-strong army of rural migrant workers who have embraced Norman Tebbit's "on yer bike" work ethic with the invention born of necessity.

It is a world away from when I first visited China in 1985, when the farmers were not free to move from the countryside, and I left Xian ahead of schedule because it was impossible to find anything bearable to eat.

In those days, many people in Xian were still wearing Mao suits. Now, at the "Margaret Photo Studio", Xian women pay at least 666 yuan (550) to get dressed up in extravagant ballgowns, their faces made up and hair coiled into exotic shapes, to have an album of photographs taken.

To applaud the outbreak of ordinary human vanity is not to minimise the question of China's human rights record. Indeed, it is the very normality of so much of everyday Chinese life which makes the

POETIC LICENCE

Have A Nice Day, the phrase that has brightened the English-speaking world for three decades is on the way out. American bosses have ordered staff to stop using the expression. Tipped to take over is the phrase, Everything is our Pleasure.

MISSING YOU ALREADY

We live for your arrival
Please rest assured we care
And like Norwegian wood-lands
We pine when you're not there
You're more to us than treasure

You weave a golden day
Our business is your pleasure
Don't leave us in this way
You're special, right? You matter
Your service is our brief
Through current stipulations
Stop short of hand relief

We mourn you in your absence
What can we do but wait
And languish 'til the next time

As beggars at your gate?
Dumpty huff Caesar
You'll come back real soon
The earth was just for starters

Next time you get the moon
We sparkle in the darkness
Like powder for your flint
Until we next ignite them
Your complimentary mint

Hey look, it's been amazing
G'nite G'nite, Yassou
Has Elvis left the building?
He's nothing next to you
The heady wine of friendship
Anticipates you in our legs
Anticipation's legs
Is courting down our legs
Auf Wiedersehen then, schätzli
High five bro' and your bitch
Lurve on ya! Ten-Four, Breaker
And yes, we do take Switch

MARTIN NEWELL

There's always a penalty to pay for playing away

Scottish footballers may be feeling miserable, depressed and downhearted today. But it's nothing compared to the suffering of their wives and girlfriends. By Louisa Young

THERE'S a line in Scotland's World Cup song which goes: "Don't come home too soon..."

There will be a mixed welcome in the Highlands. As they return home with ignominious haste, the Scottish lads will be needing all the cheer and support they can get from their loved ones. Footballers are not the prototype ideal life and family companions, so what is life like for the women who marry them?

We read a great deal about the players who beat up their girlfriends or wives in a moment's loss of control. But football can be romantic. Just ask the Norwegian fan who married a Brazilian on the pitch before Tuesday's match. Or Posh Spice, whose engagement to David Beckham has added several points to his status. If she would only refrain from dressing him in her clothes. The football player's appeal is clear - as the unfortunate Ulrika Jonsson pointed out when asked about her relationship with Stan Collymore: "I think if you look at him that would be obvious."

As Ulrika discovered to her cost, sex is not the end of the story. The physical and emotional demands of the Beautiful Game do not seem to encourage the development of mature males, capable of rational discussion. Sheryl had her fingers broken by Gazza, but was still there to pick up the pieces when he was dejected.

Some players claim to love the game above all else. It was Paul Ince who embarrassingly regaled us with the insight that (prefaced with "my wife won't like this but...") tackling is better than sex. He likes "the crunching sound."

Tony Adams and Paul Merson have shown through their conquest of alcoholism, that a footballer can become emotionally mature, or at least self-analysed. Merson even managed to save his marriage.

But even without violence or alcohol problems, footballer's schedule can make things difficult for any kind of family life at home. Mariana Le Saux, wife of Graeme, said recently: "You don't get weekends together, and you can't be spontaneous and just say 'Let's go away tonight!'" No weekends would alone put the kibosh on most family life, but there's more: "When Graeme left Blackburn for Chelsea we went within two hours. He was on the phone saying 'Pack your bags, we're going to London tonight!'"

Mariana, 26, was born in Argentina, and has just finished her degree exams - not what we gen-



A game of the other half: David Beckham and Victoria Adams (centre) and, clockwise from top left, David Seaman with his girlfriend Debbie Rodgers, Vinnie Jones and his wife Tanya, Jamie Redknapp with pop star Louise, Stan Collymore with former love Ulrika Jonsson, and Paul Gascoigne with his wife Sheryl

erally expect of a football wife. "It takes one person, and that's it, you're all labelled," she told *She* magazine.

Beatrice Leboef, wife of Frank, goes further: "When I saw the wives at Tottenham and Arsenal I understood why people think we're stupid and only good at showing our bottoms."

Mariana Le Saux is currently on holiday on her own in the South of France, because the England squad don't get days off during the World Cup and wives are encouraged to keep a distance. "We're only allowed to see them for one day. They want the players to concentrate and they think we'll distract them."

Women - who needs 'em? Except on all those weekends, of course, when presumably someone has to be with the children.

David Seaman, the England goalkeeper, rang his sons recently to explain that he was going to marry the girl for whom he had left their mother after ten years of marriage. His son assumed when he heard his father's voice on the phone that he had rung to say Happy Birthday, as he was just turning 13. But no. Ac-

cording to his aunt, the lad said: "You left us on my birthday, you put the house up for sale on my birthday, and now all this is going in the press on my birthday."

Now the tabloids are reporting that the boys have said they don't want to go to the wedding, and that Seaman is upset. The girlfriend, Debbie Rodgers, is meanwhile telling the *Mirror* that they have a busy social life and get the best seats everywhere. "Nowhere is full if the table is for David Seaman", and that when he moved in with her "it was fun for him having no ties and doing what he wanted to."

Debbie, a former part-time receptionist at Arsenal, doesn't like the fact that he gets photographs of naked women in the post, but it's worth it because she's "not just an on-looker. I'm connected to the whole excitement of Arsenal winning the double, Euro '96 and now the World Cup."

When Dean Holdsworth had an affair and the girl split the beans, his wife Sam did not hold back. The woman, she said, was "Uglier than a Rottweiler." She said Dean caressed her all night, "cried Mrs

Holdsworth, choosing to ignore the unlikelihood of anyone but a tabloid journalist ever using that word, and then only to put in someone else's mouth. "I know Dean, and believe me, Dean does not do carressing. These days I see the young footballers' wives when their husbands get into the premier league. The think they know it all, I think 'Watch out. He's coming home on time now, but a year down the line you'll be waiting for the phone to ring and you won't know where he is.'"

A few years more down the same line Sam has forgiven Dean. "You forgive, but you don't forget," she says. There are other pressures on footballers' families. When Bournemouth went into receivership last year the players were not paid. Steve Fletcher and his pregnant girlfriend Lynn Gibbons were trying to move house. "The mortgage was put on hold for six weeks," she says. "The people we were buying from were livid. In the Premiership they're paid so much that these things aren't a concern, but we were thinking: 'What if he does lose his job?' I'd have to go straight back

to work. We talk about what would happen if he's injured, or when he's too old. His father runs a pub, so we'll probably do that. It's very different now, but at the time we had no idea whether things would be alright."

Ms Gibbons paints an unappealing picture of life with a footballer - a picture which gets worse, the more successful the player. "There's always the same women hanging round the gates on a Saturday. It's sad really. Followers are obsessive. Footballers are all stars in their home town. People know where you live and come knocking at the door."

"Then there's a lot of exaggeration: if Steve was in the papers every time he talked to a girl I'd go mad. Everybody has an opinion, there's hassle and bad media - but then he's home every day by one o'clock, and we have all summer off. That's the best thing. I don't know how I'd feel about him moving up the league. In some ways it would be quite scary."

Perhaps Scotland's early exit was welcome in the Highlands after all.



Why did no one step in to save the life of Sasha Davies?

THE DAY Sasha Davies died, many people witnessed her distress. Left with her grandfather for the day, the three-year-old had gone with him to a local club, where he drank so much that he had to be asked to leave. Described as "drunk and staggering", he then dragged her through the streets of Kilburn in north London, banging on parked cars.

Throughout all this, various bystanders saw Sasha "petrified" and screaming "I want to go home". The prosecution in the current court case claim that witnesses heard her grandfather scream "you little shit", then throw her and push her so violently that her head smashed against a wall.

Shortly afterwards he threw her from the balcony of his seventh-floor flat to her death. Her grandfather denies these charges.

At the end, it is reported, neighbours "tried to help". But why did no one intervene before?

On the surface, few of us would take on a violent drunk. There is also a deep-rooted resistance to the idea of interfering in another family's affairs. In Sasha's case, racism must have played its part. The stereotypical association of blacks with violence makes it easy for whites to tell themselves that black families are more violent with their children, but "it's their culture", and "the children get used to it". Some may have thought with contempt, "let them get on with it".

Yet there are wider factors beyond this pitiful case. Far too many children have died because no one intervened. James Bulger was seen many times as he was dragged to his death. Even those who perish in the privacy of their own homes have almost always been observed by neighbours, friends or local residents. Sasha is only the latest victim of compulsive reticence. What makes us so reluctant to get involved?

One common factor is simple disbelief. In an era when violence and sadism are the stuff of mass media entertainment, we are ignorant of the real-life violence our forebears knew. Within this century, horses or dogs were whipped in the street, men openly struck their wives and children, schoolmasters beat pupils, and even primary school teachers were free with the ruler or

hand. In public at least, most of that has gone with the wind. To see a fist smashing into flesh, to hear the unique sound of a body colliding with something hurtful and hard, is something unfamiliar, so we don't know what to do.

There is disbelief too when faced with sadism. Most people only strike a child in anger, if they strike at all. Deliberate cruelty is "beyond belief". Even the professionals have to work hard to deal with it. Ordinary people can be so overwhelmed that their only response is to evade or deny.

More denial occurs when we think, "why me?" When a child is assaulted, we are angry and embarrassed to be in the front line of defence. We don't want the unwelcome attention of seeming to step forward.

"What if I make a fool of myself?" is a peculiarly British disease. "Where's its mother/father, where are the social services?" is another form of shrinking away. Our inner self is resentfully whining, "it's not my job, why should I get involved?"

And here we have it, I fear. Our reasons for failing are those of self-defence. Our apparently laudable desire not to cause trouble or interfere springs from self-regard. We prefer to protect ourselves, not the child. While we are doing this, the children die.

As they have always done. Throughout history, every society in every age has placed the interests of adults above those of the child. Our age has struggled to formulate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. What that means may be judged by the fact that countries with a questionable record on adult human rights, like Guatemala, Vietnam, Nicaragua and Egypt, have cheerfully signed up to it, when many leading western states have not.

But it's not down to the UN to look after our kids. We should know instinctively as soon as it occurs that mistreating a child is wrong. We should act calmly but decisively if we even suspect it is taking place. Failure to do so is moral cowardice. "Take me home!" the weeping Sasha begged, again and again. If only someone had.

ROSALIND MILES

Rosalind Miles is the author of *The Rites of Man*, a study of male violence, and *The Children We Deserve*.

A gambler's stakes just keep on rising

HOW DO you imagine a gambler? As a poor unemployed person desperately spending all his benefit money on scratch cards? A football fanatic staking his life savings on the outcome of the World Cup? A little lady in a white cardigan pottering into a bingo hall with a pound of pension money to spend? Or a dashing young devil in a dinner jacket and a rose in his button-hole swaggering into a casino at two in the morning?

Gamblers can actually be absolutely anyone, and whether we're people who own penny shares on the stock exchange, or who simply have a flutter on the Derby once a year, we're becoming a nation of gamblers.

William Hill estimates that betting on this year's World Cup will exceed all other non-racing sports events ever. In 1994, the World Cup was the biggest betting event on sports that year, and 1996 lived up to the same expectations, but this year's World Cup is estimated to exceed £100 million pounds.

Ever since the National Lottery started four years ago, we have gambled more and more and more. Before the Lottery, 74 per cent of people were involved in some kind of gambling; since the Lottery, the figure has shot up to 90 per cent. It

used to be mainly men who bet on the pools and the horses; now more women and young people are involved in gambling. Of the 2.8 million people involved in Bingo, for example, 83 per cent are women.

Why do we gamble? And why have we always gambled? It is said that Caesar actually invaded Gaul simply to pay his gambling debts.

According to Angela Willans, author of *Gambling, a Family Affair* (Sheldon Press £8.99), there are four reasons: the money, the social life, as a remedy for boredom, and finally there's the buzz.

The chances of winning the Lottery are, according to her, less than the chances of being mugged, losing your job and having your house repossessed all on the same day. The big lure is the jackpot. Much of this obsession with a big win is to do with an enormous lack of self-esteem and a feeling of "When I win the Lottery, then I'll show them". If people don't win on scratch cards, it's a spur to go on until they do, "and if they do win it's a spur to go on until they win some more," says Angela Willans.

The gambling social life is another reason to keep betting. Gamblers like the casino or the betting shop as much as the alcoholic likes the

local pub. Here, no one criticises them for what they do, and they find a camaraderie that makes them feel better about themselves. Unemployed men find the betting shop a reason for leaving their houses and talking to friends; rich men like Adnan Khashoggi, who has recently reached an out of court settlement with the Ritz Casino after £3.2 million worth of cheques bounced, must find it a relief to meet other rich men in a relaxed way.

And if you're unemployed and bored, gambling can give you a feel-

ing of doing something. "I only come alive at the tables," is a common reaction.

Indeed, it's the buzz that's the most addictive thing about gambling. "A gambler will actually experience physical changes while the roulette wheel slows down, like raised blood pressure, a slowing down of the digestive system, a surge of adrenaline and over double his usual heart-rate," says Angela Willans. In other words, gambling can give you a physical high in the same way as you get high on alcohol or drugs. "Unless I was staking more than I could afford, there wasn't any buzz," said one man who bet on the horses.

It's the buzz that turns normal gamblers into compulsive gamblers. There are an estimated one and a half million people who have a real problem with gambling and Gamblers Anonymous, which uses the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous to help gamblers on their path to health, welcomes 15,000 of these addictive gamblers through their doors each year.

There are stories of compulsive gamblers raiding their children's money boxes and secretly re-mortgaging the house. Families can be completely destroyed by a gambler's addiction. The main signs are secrecy, huge, feebly explained away debts, unexplained borrowing from family and friends, stealing and, finally, an increasing tendency to gamble alone.

There seem to be two different sorts of gamblers. The sabbos, who feel they have no power over their lives and hand their whole futures over to Lady Luck. (Even Adnan Khashoggi is superstitious. "He called me his lucky rabbit and liked me to go with him to the tables," says Soraya, his ex-wife.) These are peo-



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

DILEMMAS

Next week's dilemma: This was left off last week's Dilemma column because of a production error. We apologise for the omission. Please write in with your answers as usual this week.

Dear Virginia, My husband's a gentle, kind man, devoted to me and our four children. We have been married 25 years this summer. However, his taste for porno-

graphy of sadistic and violent kinds has always been a shadow in the background of our marriage. My husband eventually promised to get rid of all his magazines and give it all up, as I worried the kids would find it. Then a week ago, I discovered a mass of stuff on our computer, obviously

gained through the Internet. Stories about the total degradation of women, torture, humiliation, dis-ciplining of young girls and children, and I'm furious that the children might already have seen it. I've cancelled our contract with the Internet, but feel betrayed and disgusted. Is separation from this man the only way now? It would be a terrible upheaval for myself and the children. Is it my fault for becoming less interested in sex over the years? I can't bear the thought of any sex at all with him now. We're supposed to be going to Paris to celebrate our 25th, but I feel now I wouldn't even go to the end of the road with him. Can anyone help me think straight? Yours sincerely, Joan

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There seem to be two different sorts of gamblers. The sabbos, who feel they have no power over their lives and hand their whole futures over to Lady Luck. (Even Adnan Khashoggi is superstitious. "He called me his lucky rabbit and liked me to go with him to the tables," says Soraya, his ex-wife.) These are peo-

ple who are unable to accept reality, who are insecure, who want good things without making any effort, and who feel guilty and feel their losses are a way of punishing themselves.

Then there is the flashier type of gambler, who hangs out with the casino crowd, or may be one of the flamboyant and compulsive players on the stock market. According to one psychiatrist's findings, these are people who show contempt for moderate earnings, who are highly ambitious and workaholic, and whose boredom threshold is low. Competitive, they are bad losers, cynical and hypersensitive. They show contempt for unsuccessful people and they hide their underlying depression with an exaggerated air of importance.

The average sabbos on the World Cup is a tanner, but William Hill recently took £160,000 from a punter who bet that amount on Chile to beat Austria. He lost it all in the last ten seconds of the game.

If that happened to most of us, we'd resolve never to go near a betting shop again. But if it happened to a gambling man, he'd just shrug off his losses. Lady Luck is a fickle woman and who knows, tonight... VIRGINIA IRONSIDE Gamblers Anonymous 0171 384 3040

(What's so funny about) peace, love and toilet paper?



Radio 1 DJ
Jo Whiley on
tuning in,
turning on and
falling over at
Glastonbury

WHILE OTHER festivals come and go, the emperor of them all - Glastonbury - continues to get bigger. It's still untouchable, despite the best efforts of the commercial sponsors to breed bigger, slicker super-festivals throughout the summer. It is the original, and still the best, as the jungle used to go. The BBC bi-media family have never taken it more seriously, despatching the likes of John Peel OBE, Jools Holland, Steve Lamacq and myself to straddle TV and radio between us.

I'm on duty all weekend - something I'm having to get used to, but you can guarantee that I'm going to see as many of the bands as is physically possible. It's a far cry from my "first time". Then, the music was just a small part of the gig. Seventeen years ago, I knew nothing about the festival, just that everybody in the sixth form went and that it was dead cool, something very special. I had to discover it for myself.

I arrived with my fifth-form mates, and soon discovery was the very last thing on our minds, for we had been introduced to authentic scrumpy... I was flat on my back.

By the time I covered Glastonbury professionally for the first time, this was Pulp's year and I had managed to sober up. Oasis and Portishead played, and Robbie Williams turned up. The magic hit me. I would never have dreamt I'd have got behind the big iron fences saying "Keep out - this is where all the media people are". I just stood and gazed around, my jaw on the floor. Might it be that I could get a glimpse of anyone from New Order? Now it's really good to be able to try and translate that feeling to millions, whether watching TV or on the radio.



If the rain comes down on this year's Glastonbury Festival as it did last year, the wily entrepreneur will do well to go armed with bales of straw

Music is just half of it - although you have to say, the major half. There is the chance to have a live experience with the more obscure bands you've been meaning to catch up with but wouldn't have parted with a few pounds to see. It's a chance to see the bands everybody is talking about, although that is less the case this year, with the paucity of successful new material from established bands being one of the reasons behind the collapse of Phoenix this year. But the other half is just as magical - the spirit, the jugglers, the alternative fashions, the new foods and the painted soapboxes. The food has a chance to hop off your back, even if it's just for a weekend. It's a chance to escape from the

sanitised world of Cool Britannia in London, even if it means sacrificing my full English fry-up on a Sunday morning for some falafel or organic dahl. I say "sanitised", but I have to admit that after a couple of hours at Glastonbury, you do begin to miss the rudiments of modern sanitary provision. Ask any regular festival-goer for the obligatory top tips for coping with the outdoor life, and they will mention the toilets.

The more cynical claim that the loss in the media village are in some way better. They may be shinier, but doing your business in the middle of a field is always a bad experience. Taking extra toilet roll is one of the top tips all festival-goers should adhere to.

The alternative lifestyles on display are mirrored by the stirrings of an alternative economy. Speculators take note - stocking up on the right commodities can leave you in a very healthy position. My colleague Steve Lamacq reckons that if you take enough, say, toilet roll, you can begin trading, quite by accident, in return for other essentials you may need. In the mud at last year's Glastonbury, straw became the equivalent of the Ecu. Bales of straw saw their exchange rate rocket as the ground beneath our feet sank.

The only infection from the outside world is the slow creep of technology onto the site. Last year's oasis of calm saw the birdsong that festival-goers have become so used to accompanied by new tones - those of the mobile phone. This

year we have cash machines on site, although I'm not sure I could stand the queue. It's all very useful, but I want to escape properly.

But music continues to be the driving force. It has changed a great deal since the first Glastonbury in 1970, when Marc Bolan made his entrance onto the farm site in a velvet covered car. Folk and Roots have begun to give way Dance tents, but the breadth of musical experience is just as mind-blowing. It might not be under a single roof, but where else could you bring together the talents of Pulp on the Pyramid Stage (Sunday), Asian Dub Foundation on the Other Stage (Friday), The Unbelievable Truth in the New Tent (Friday) and of course, Rolf Harris on the Acoustic Stage (Friday)?

Not to mention Embrace, Portishead, Spiritualized and Tricky.

As my boss for the weekend, overseeing the BBC's TV and radio coverage, Trevor Dann has said, "If this was pay-per-view across TV and radio, you can guarantee you'd be bankrupt" if you haven't managed to bag a ticket, make sure you tune in to capture a little of the magic going down in a corner of Somerset.

Jo Whiley will be broadcasting from Glastonbury as part of the BBC's TV and radio presence, which will include John Peel OBE, Jools Holland, Joanne Middlemiss, Jamie Theakston on BBC 2, and Steve Lamacq, Mary Anne Hobbs, Annie Nightingale as well as Jo and John on Radio 1

The playwright as a young man

THE FASTEST way to get up the nose of a playwright is to pigeonhole one of them as a "gay playwright" or a "female dramatist". After all, no one describes Alan Ayckbourn as a white-collar, middle-class male playwright, but that's his world. Until now, describing David Mamet as a Jewish playwright seemed massively beside the point, but his new 70-minute trilogy *The Old Neighborhood* finds him investigating his roots. It widens our view of one of America's most important writers for it's the closest he's got to an autobiography.

To prove the point, Patrick Marber's British premier production even dresses the central character, Bobby, to look like Mamet, furnishing actor Colin Stinton with his cropped hair and beard and only stopping short of his owlish spectacles. Bobby is on a trip home and in

THEATRE

THE OLD NEIGHBOURHOOD
ROYAL COURT AT
DUKE OF YORK'S, LONDON

the first part he and his old friend Joey are having a drink and chewing the fat beneath hanging gazes of family photographs in the Chicago of their childhood.

The most exciting thing about Mamet's writing for both actors and audiences lies in the pregnancy of what is left unsaid. Joey, bluff, energetic Linal Haft, is voluble and highly animated in typically foul-mouthed Mamet manner, but it is Bobby's reticence that quietly grips and his clipped intimations of his unhappy marriage speak volumes. Given the title of the first part, *The Disappearance of the Jews*, it's no surprise to find their conversation

slipping away from hearty and homely reminiscences to reveal the complications and losses of their adult lives as Bobby reveals: "I should never have married a Jew? Does this make his son not a Jew?"

This is thrown into perspective in the second and most successful part of the evening where Bobby goes to stay with his sister Jolly. Whether she's rejecting her mother's strict discipline or yearning for her lost love, Zoe Wanamaker is fiercely funny and moving as she catalogues the woes of their fraught upbringing at the hands of their remarried mother. Edging around Jolly's rage at the suggestion that she has raised her own kids badly, Mamet writes eloquently of supportive Bobby's fear that divorcing his own wife will lead to history repeating itself. Yet in the elegiac final part his feelings are tested as he has dinner with an awkwardly off-key childhood love.

Marber, who as a writer is heavily influenced by Mamet, goes to some lengths to eschew stereotypical "Jewish" acting but it's possible to be too discreet. From time to time, the exacting Wanamaker excepted, speech rhythms and inflections are slightly off, thus draining the idiomatic writing of its humour and contrast.

On a recent *Face To Face* interview, Mamet dodged nearly all of Jeremy Isaacs' questions and when asked about his own difficult upbringing with an unsympathetic step-parent he simply clammed up. Happily he is more forthcoming in this beautifully written, tough-talking affectionate portrait.

DAVID BENEDICT

This review appeared in some editions of yesterday's paper



Bobby and Jolly, siblings in suffering

Geraint Lewis

The Manchester duo Autecore dragged the audience back into the studio, hunched over their machinery in pitch darkness with small torches to light their way. Autecore describe their music as amorphous and instinctual: pushing the boundaries of experimentation. But the intense, abstract electronic sounds they produced were so loud as to be alienating - unlike the more soothing, free-form style of their recordings. The evening finished on an upbeat note with Plaid (stage lights, slide show, vocals and guitar): music crammed with squeaks, scratches, beats, trills, intricate rhythms and crashing metal. The cumulative effect of so many hours of disparate ear-battering joys you appreciate the joys of silence. *Meltdown* continues to 5 July. For information and booking, call 0171-960 4242

KATE MURRAY

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW JUSTICES LICENCE
LICENSING ACT 1964
COURT: The Law Courts, Westminster, London, W1A 1JF
HEARING DATE: Wednesday 5 August 1998 at 10am
PREMISES: The Off Licence, 4/5 Fargate, Middlesbrough
APPLICANT: Keith Vincent Doolan
ADDRESS: 27 Westfield Road, Ealing, London, W5
TRADE OR CALLING: Operations Manager
TAKE NOTICE that the Applicant intends to apply to the Licensing Sessions for the said Licence to be held at the place and time shown above for the purpose of granting him a justices licence authorising him to sell by retail intoxicating liquor at all descriptions for consumption off the above premises.
DATED: 16 June 1998
PASNER & CO
Bancroft House, 154 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3DQ
Solicitor, and Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the said Applicant

WILLIAM GREENWOOD & SONS LIMITED
(the Administrative Receivers)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at Winchester House, Deane Gate, London, E14 5JF, on Friday 19 June 1998 at 10.30 am for the purpose of considering the proposed arrangements for the sale of the company's assets and for the purposes provided for in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act. A list of the names and addresses of the creditors entitled to attend the meeting will be available at the offices of Messrs Langford, Winchester House, Deane Gate, London, E14 5JF, on the 2nd and 3rd days of July 1998.
DATED: 16th day of June 1998
By Order of the Board
ROSLAND STEVENS, Director

THE FLORA HAGUE
DECEASED
The estate of Flora Hague deceased formerly of 13 Woodfield Road, Chesham, Bucks, who died on 25 January 1998 and to whose estate a Grant of Probate was issued on 19 December 1997 hereby gives notice that the estate is being administered by the undersigned who are solicitors for the purposes provided for in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act. A list of the names and addresses of the creditors entitled to attend the meeting will be available at the offices of Messrs Langford, Winchester House, Deane Gate, London, E14 5JF, on the 2nd and 3rd days of July 1998.
DATED: 16th day of June 1998
By Order of the Board
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The Bosstones' twee party

POP

THE MIGHTY MIGHTY
BOSTONES
ASTORIA
LONDON

ON GLOBES that display the world's time zones, Boston is five hours behind London. If you'd turned up unarmed with this knowledge at tonight's show by Boston's biggest export since The Pixies, you'd conclude that the time difference was more like 20 years. Even before The Mighty Bosstones have set a crepe-soled foot on stage, the Astoria feels like it has fallen through a timewarp - the bar is full of men in Fred Perry shirts, pork pie hats and Doc Martens, accompanied by girlfriends sporting, unbelievably in this day and age, the shaved poodle/skinhead-with-fringe look.

The Bosstones are both symptom and beneficiary of America's slowness on the up-

take where pop music is concerned - we are, after all, talking about a nation who only discovered The Smiths two albums into Morrissey's unremittingly dismal solo career. Like No Doubt and Rancid, the Bosstones have tapped into a surprisingly large stateside audience who have recently realised that The Specials, Madness, The Selecter and The Beat were what has been missing from their lives all this time. Better late than never. These bands were responsible for some fine records, includ-

ing Madness's singles, The Beat's *Special Beat Service* and The Specials' scandalously deleted dub noir classic *More Specials*. The trouble with the Bosstones and their nouveau-ska fellow travellers is that they replicate the genre with all the overbearing enthusiasm of fanatics, and none of the invention or irreverence that made the music sound fresh and exciting in the first place (which it did - it's only since 2-Tone that bands with multi-racial memberships, like that of the Bosstones, have ceased to be thought of as inherently remarkable).

That The Bosstones are essentially no more than an animatronic replica of the original is obvious as soon as the

eight of them appear. They've come dressed as The Specials, all suits and sunglasses, except singer Dicky Barrett, who looks like he's come from an Elvis Costello lookalike convention. Barrett swiftly proves himself a thoroughly dislikeable frontman, despite his impressive guttural vocal (he's got a voice like a racing car being started). He swears at the photographers in the pit and announces, apropos of nothing, that "the NME can suck my dick". While this is doubtless the best offer the NME has had in some time, Barrett's childish petulance sits uneasily with the atmosphere of raucous celebration the band behind him are trying to conjure.

ANDREW MUELLER

FILM

Right girl, wrong gender

THE BIG PICTURE



RYAN GILBEY

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION

DIRECTOR: NICHOLAS HYTNER
STARRING: PAUL RUDD,
JENNIFER ANISTON
RUNNING TIME: 111 MINS

THE HEROINE of the bubbly 1995 comedy *Clueless* lived happily ever after with her step-brother, played by Paul Rudd, only when her first choice of boyfriend had turned out to be gay. Now it's Rudd's turn to play "Crush the Straight Girl" for the new romantic comedy *The Object of My Affection*, in which he confounds his flat-mate's dreams of wedding vows and joint burial plots by going and dancing at the other end of the ballroom, so to speak. Now what does he want to do a thing like that for?

Indeed, this may be the question on the lips of many heterosexual males in the audience, since the desires in question emanate from the bosom of Jennifer Aniston, better known as Rachel in *Friends*. The worst thing about *The Object of My Affection* is that the screenwriter, Wendy Wasserstein, who has adapted Stephen McCauley's novel, runs herself ragged trying to please all of the people all of the time, but one of the film's sweetest pleasures is in the casting. Aniston is a jolly enough actress even if, as her recent shampoo ads have proved, there really is no beginning to her talents. Her presence in the picture as Nina, the flatmate of George (Rudd), is purely symbolic - she's there to convince sceptical minds that homosexuality doesn't come in degrees, and it won't wither in the presence of a willing member of the opposite sex, either. The rationale behind this is that if a guy doesn't swoon over Jennifer Aniston, then he must really be serious about all this gay business.

You very quickly get the sense that *The Object of My Affection* is intended for those viewers whose ideas about homosexuality have been entirely formulated by the media - people who claim to have gay friends when what they really mean is that they once laughed at a Julian Clary joke. It's easy to feel patronised by the movie, so it's best to approach it the way you would a children's film. What is it trying to teach its audience? And does its message emerge unscrambled?

George is a gay school teacher, al-



Paul Rudd ultimately manages to resist the physical temptations of Jennifer Aniston, surely the greatest test of whether he is battling for the all boys' team

though I should stress that there's nothing in his conduct that would cause even the mildest heart murmur in the House of Lords. What you get is an effort to dilute and de-fang the image of homosexuality for nervous, straight audiences - to present it as a symbol of comfort, not threat; of diversity rather than perversity. Our introduction to George's sexuality comes when his boyfriend falls to attend the school play which he has directed - a non-threatening do-

mestic situation that a passing character reminds us can be applied to anyone ("If my boyfriend did that..."). Later, we meet an elderly man who announces "Gay? Everyone's gay!", and a woman who is President of the New York Mothers of Lesbian Lesbians.

Like the recent *In And Out*, the picture spoofs gay stereotypes while also including enough of them to ensure that viewers who cling to those stereotypes for their only knowledge

of homosexuality won't be alienated. This trait may be casually duplicitous, but it's where Wasserstein gets a chance to kick off her shoes, away from worrying about whether Cupid's arrow is going to put somebody's eye out. Nina's sister Constance (the sublime Alison Janney) provides the voice of benign misconception. Greeting George at her dinner party she babbles excitedly: "We know RuPaul! We must have him over some time so you two can

meet." When she needs help with her centrepiece, it's George she calls on. Meanwhile, Nina's boyfriend prides himself on what he believes is his homo-friendly thought process: "Aren't you guys supposed to stick up for the disenfranchised?" he asks George.

These jokes are dead-end, though you can't help laughing at the way the film sets up George's ex-lover as the villain - his vanity is bad enough, but when he declares a pref-

erence for experimental theatre over Broadway musicals, you have to physically stop yourself hissing.

The director Nicholas Hytner strikes a bargain with his audience which is slightly at odds with his film's personality. In return for tolerance, he pledges not to push his luck by exposing excessive amounts of male flesh. At least not when that male is within kissing distance of another man. When George and Nina slip into tentative physical intimacy,

they rack up more close-ups than they know what to do with, but George's subsequent sexual encounters are reduced to a peck on the cheek or a squeeze of the thigh. Hytner, no doubt under considerable pressure, treads very carefully. This time, he works at persuading us that gay people are human. Perhaps in a sequel or two, he will get around to admitting that some of them even have sex.

Although the film picks up where *My Best Friend's Wedding* left off, wondering what would happen if two pieces of a different jigsaw tried to fit together, it rather depressingly concludes its investigation at exactly the same location. Once more, the gay chum is presented as the latest in a conveyor-belt of accessories which no modern gal should be without. Your first reaction to this is that it's preferable to the equation between homosexuality and homicidal impulses suggested by everything from *Diamonds Are Forever* to *Cruising*. Preferable, yes, but no less distorted. The choice of serial-killer or saintly eunuch is no choice at all.

George is ultimately as objectified as the father-and-son double-act whom he witnesses playing catch - a game which has come to symbolise conformity and family values since *Field of Dreams*. It's that sight which persuades him that he will help Nina raise her baby after all, and it's a credit to Paul Rudd that the scene doesn't drive you to burn down the cinema, or at least drop your hot-dog in disgust. Rudd has a pixieish, Montgomery Clift face and it's either a habit of his to reveal the sparkle in his eyes at regular intervals, or else Hytner has instructed him to do so to provide a distraction from some of his more unforgivably inept lines.

Hytner is a British director, and though he doesn't impose a discernible cultural influence on the picture, there are a few theatrical flourishes which might be ascribed to him, like the opening shot of George emerging not from the closet but from behind the curtains on a stage. He also brings a light, farcical bounce to a chaotic scene in Nina's apartment which ends with a literary agent (Alan Alda in full, verbally diarrhoeic flow) collapsing on the sofa and calling to be fanned - "Is that the New Yorker? Fan me with the New Yorker!" You sense a particular relish in the scenes featuring Rodney, an acerbic theatre critic jubilantly played by Nigel Hawthorne. I had thought this was Hytner's revenge on any poisoned mis he had encountered during his previous career as a theatre director; only Rodney ends up as the most likeable soul in the film. Sympathetic gay characters are a dodgie. But a theatre critic that you'd happily allow into your home? That really takes talent.

ALSO SHOWING

Mimic Guillermo del Toro (15) ■ Journey to the Beginning of the World Manoel de Oliveira (U)
Ponette Jacques Doillon (15) ■ Girls' Night Nick Hurran (15) ■ Palmetto Volker Schlöndorff (15) ■ Going All the Way Mark Pellington (15)

Insecticide is the coward's way out

IN THE new horror film *Mimic*, giant mutant cockroaches are roaming subway tunnels in search of human flesh, a scenario which will have special resonance for anyone who has travelled on the Northern line recently. Mira Sorvino is the entomologist who, having inadvertently created this species whilst trying to combat another, is called upon to go where no Rentokil operative has gone before - a case of "you've made your cockroach, now squish it". But this isn't your everyday 12-foot-tall bloodthirsty bug; these creatures have an accelerated evolutionary process which has enabled them to assume the form of their predators. America once feared Reds under the beds; now it's roaches in the subway coaches.

Although it has its share of bargain-basement dialogue, *Mimic* is more poetic and melancholy than killer-bug movies tend to be. This is due to the influence of the Mexican director and co-writer Guillermo del Toro, whose last work was the unexpectedly poignant vampire fable *Cronos*. His camera intuitively alights on arresting images, but he's also unusually compassionate for a horror director. You really sense that he cares about each of his characters - he doesn't treat any of them like bug food, even if that's all they are. And his tenderness can manifest it-



'Mimic' is rather more poignant and melancholic than your average killer-bug movie tends to be

self in unlikely places, like the scene where Sorvino and her lover are coating their skin with cockroach excretions to disguise human scent. She bats her eyelids. He gazes back at her. And then she smears insect viscera on his cheek. Aah. They've got the love bug. *Journey to the Beginning of the World* features Marcello Mastroianni final performance; his disposition, wise and sunny

but flecked with both mischief and weariness, is unchanged. He still looks like a man who has been benignly trailing heavy luggage for all eternity without complaint. But the picture, by the 90-year-old filmmaker Manoel de Oliveira, is a grave disappointment. It's a commentary on life through the travels of Manoel, the elderly director (guess who he's based on?) played by Mas-

troianni. There's some dreamy travelogue footage, shot from a vehicle's rear window; what with all the talk of death, I felt like I was touring Portugal in the back of an ambulance.

This backwards perspective is typical of the film's fuzzy nostalgia. And it's anchored by increasingly unwieldy symbolism. When Mastroianni strains to grab a burst of blossom on a tree, his friends look on blankly, refusing to lower the branch for him. Why? Because it's symbolic blossom, and a symbolic branch. He's probably got symbolic arthritis too.

The title character of *Ponette* is a four-year-old girl whose mother dies in a car accident, causing her to reflect on the implications of death. The young Victoire Thivisol shows a preternatural comprehension of acting technique, though it's hard to stifle a distinct discomfort at watching one so young parade such primal emotions. It doesn't help matters that *Ponette* has nothing very sophisticated to say about grief or childhood. Perhaps the film's failure to engage comes down to the fact that when adults are good, they're very, very good, but when children are good, they're just creepy.

Death again in *Girls' Night*, in which Brenda Blethyn wins a Bingo jackpot and then discovers that she has a brain tumour. Sadly, the film isn't

making any radical link between Bingo and terminal illness, but rather celebrating the magnificent resilience of chirpy Northern factory workers. Julie Walters plays Blethyn's sister-in-law, and together they jet off to Las Vegas and hang out with Kris Kristoferson, who plays a wrinkled rodeo rider, before it's time for the final "ta-ra". This pedes-

trian weepee stoops to unalloyed sadism in its quest to break your heart.

Palmetto is film noir by numbers. Woody Harrelson plays a writer who gets mixed up with a blonde vixen (Elizabeth Sme). From there, it's two hours of high heels, swag-bags and bodies in trunks, all thrown together by director Volker Schlöndorff (*The Tin Drum*),

and with most of the fun spoiled by the fact that you're at least five steps ahead of the hero.

There are some imaginative visual interpretations of mental chaos in *Going All the Way* but this is a largely reductive rite of passage story, with two soldiers (Jeremy Davies and Ben Affleck) returning home to 1960s America and disillusionment. With

Spanking the Monkey and this, Davies is cornering the market in dysfunctional young men who masturbate a lot and lust after older women. Sure, it's his career, but something tells me this is a dead-end street.

All films on general release from tomorrow

RYAN GILBEY

KATHY BATES MARTIN SHEEN KIMBERLY WILLIAMS AND EMILIO ESTEVEZ

"Very powerful... Oscar-calibre performances"

"Vivid... forceful"

"A quartet of performances that are among the year's best... strong stuff"

"Beautifully acted..."

SOME WOUNDS NEVER HEAL

THE WAR "HOME"

EXCLUSIVE PRESENTATION TOMORROW AT PLAZA RECENT ST 0990 856990 AND SELECTED CINEMAS AROUND THE COUNTRY

12/FILM

Nick Broomfield's *Kurt and Courtney* started life as a biopic of Kurt Cobain - the life, music and violent death of a pop icon. But now it's set its sights on censorship, fame, image manipulation. And truth. By James Mottram

Here we are now, entertain us

It's a story about evil, about darkness and unbridled ambition. A story about Hollywood and the people that go there. It's about an artist who didn't have enough armour-plating. It's about human waste and excess. It's an unpleasant story. Nick Broomfield is not outlining a Jackie Collins novel, but his own *Kurt and Courtney*, the conspiracy-ridden and controversy-laden documentary that sits and discards the various theories behind the death of grunge pioneer and Nirvana lead singer, Kurt Cobain.

Ostensibly a bio-doc, the film has outgrown its low-key nature. Threatened with a lawsuit by the lawyers of Cobain's widow Courtney Love, organisers of the prestigious independent Sundance Film Festival - in what Broomfield felt was a reaction to "bad legal advice" - pulled the film from its prestigious World Cinema slot at the 11th hour. It played at Sundance's alternative festival, Slam-Dunk, but was dropped from a scheduled BBC telecast. Since then the rights to use Nirvana songs on the film have been withdrawn. Abandoning a soundtrack prepped for Cobain's songs, the segments instead feature Broomfield's public school tones, pointing out that Love's lawyers have laid down their law. Forbidden by the BBC, who backed the film, from playing *Top of the Pops* footage, Broomfield saw the work transform before his eyes.

"There's been a lot of sabre-rattling, a lot of threats, a lot of bluster. But there's been no lawsuit against us. The removal from Sundance created a belief among the public and distributors that the film had legal problems and couldn't be shown. The film, in the end, became about control and censorship. Its release - all the events since, I've been trying to get it out - have borne out the thesis to the film," he says.

With the denouement showing the kamikaze Broomfield gate-crashing the ACLU dinner, in which Love ironically is invited as a guest speaker as the champion of free expression "in all media", the film becomes as much about her, and what she represents, as it does about Cobain. Eclipsing her husband, she inadvertently casts herself as villain.

"Courtney is very measured and controlling in what she wants. Part of re-inventing yourself is that you've got to be able to control that image. The old image can't be used. There were strict instructions for Pat Kingsley [Love's publicist] saying that in the future you will use this picture of her, all others must be destroyed. You cannot underestimate the power of the publicist, it's censorship. I think a lot of journalists are so star-driven, they're reluctant to step out of line or be critical. Journalists resent the fact that editors do not stand up to those situations, allow themselves to be bullied. The people who suffer are the public, who are not given anywhere near the truth."

Inspired to visit Cobain's early haunts from a love-affair with his music, the idea of a music-based documentary grew from Broomfield's desire, years back, to film *The Clash*. "I went on tour with them, which was kind of boring. There were drugs, but it wasn't going to be like



Nick Broomfield (above) continues his dissection of the documentary maker's trade in his new film, *Kurt and Courtney*, featuring the late Kurt Cobain (below)

The Rolling Stones' film *Cocksucker Blues*. It was just going to be depressing. It wouldn't celebrate anything. Unfortunately, I thought Joe Strummer was really posy. Cobain, and the way he popularised punk, was more interesting. His music was a synthesis of heavy metal, punk and The Beatles; he was a cross-over artist." Conceiving the Cobain film as an examination of this fusion and its influence, Broomfield interviewed dozens of musicians, only to discard the footage upon encountering the various conspiracies espoused upon in books and posted on the Internet. Opening as a biography of sorts, interviewing Cobain's Aunt, headmaster and ex-girlfriend, it transcends the genre to take on board an array of "Who Killed Kurt?" campaigns.

"It would've been impossible to do an in-depth film about Cobain without mentioning the theories, but I actually ended up taking them slightly more seriously than I thought I would do." Lining up an array of hilarious (unintentional or otherwise) characters with axes to grind, Broomfield etches the ex-



terminities of rock'n'roll. Highlights include the cowardly Stalkerazzi, employed by Broomfield to vox-pop Love: Love's own father Hank Harrison; and her Portland-based ex-boyfriend Roz, who threatens her on-screen for ruining his musical career.

Noting that the evidence did not point "to a smoking gun, anything tangible", Broomfield as ever as-

sembles his ideas on screen. "I didn't have an angle. I was just trying to find my way through it," he says on film, eventually rejecting the theories he comes across. A great believer in cutting the film together to reveal the very process of documenting the subject, Broomfield draws stylistic comparisons with *Heidi Fleiss: Hollywood Madam*, his previous look at the underbelly of

Tinseltown. Both delight in showing his failure to secure interviews; in *Kurt and Courtney* he goes as far as showing a nifty key financier getting cold feet. A dangerous technique, we become susceptible to Broomfield's point-of-view (or deliberate lack of one), gently nudged in the direction he wants us to go.

"You try as much as possible to recreate the journey - what it's like when you were filming, in an impressionistic way. The process is rather haphazard - any investigation inherently is. It's like a detective story or what Tom Wolfe did with *New Journalism*," he claims. "You're dealing with instinct. It's just one approach, but if you can involve the audience on this rollercoaster ride and use that as part of the dramatic structure, it's much more revealing. The way you get to somebody, for example, is often as revealing as when you sit down to do the interview itself. You can learn a lot by the problems you're having. You can use everything to define the subject."

How subjective the account of events is remains difficult to assess,

the intrusive figure of the bumbling Broomfield appearing this innocent stumbling upon villainy, we are led to think. But he ultimately rejects the non-suicide line. Minus much pre-shoot research, Broomfield's "detective story" is a shot in the dark. Lacking appearances from fellow Nirvana band members, or indeed Love herself, Broomfield pays no tribute to Love's own band Hole, and the groundwork it laid for Cobain and co's success. Omitting facts - we have no idea that Love was only 17 when she was with ex-boyfriend Roz, then 27 - Broomfield's controversy has been shaped as much in the editing room as the court-room.

More than examining Cobain as an "icon of a way of life", or the issues underlying the cult of celebrity, *Kurt and Courtney* makes you question the truth and manipulative possibilities of documentary filmmaking. Entertaining certainly, but without Love's side truly represented, is it the Hole picture?

Kurt and Courtney is released on 3 July

BROOMFIELD'S GREATEST HITS

The Leader, the Driver and the Drivers' Wife (1991)
Broomfield's study of Eugene Terre Blanche aroused the ire of the South African neo-Nazi.

Tracking Down Margaret Thatcher (1994)
He followed the Iron Lady wherever he could in a thwarted attempt to pin her down.

Heidi Fleiss: Hollywood Madam (1995)
Contained such an intimate interview, there were rumours they were having an affair.

Petishes (1997)
Broomfield discovered he's not the submissive type in this exploration of kinky sex. The funniest scene has him politely declining a session with Mistress Raven.

JENNIFER RODGER

JACK VALENTI

He was in Kennedy's motorcade in Dallas, he plays golf with Bill Clinton. You could say the head of the US film industry is well connected

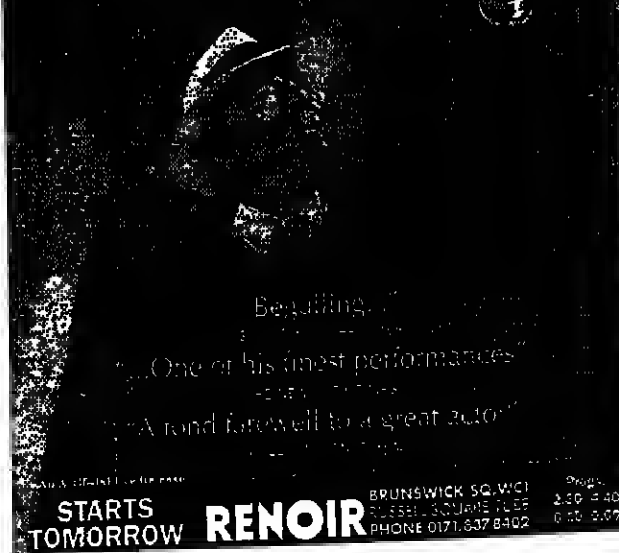
PAGE 15

BEST FILM - Critics' Prize
European Awards 1997

MARCELLO MASTROIANNI IN

JOURNEY TO THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD

A FILM BY MANOEL DE OLIVEIRA



STARTS TOMORROW RENOIR

THE CHARTS

US BOX OFFICE

TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS	TOTAL TAKINGS
1 The Truman Show	2862	\$28,307,580	\$72,829,359
2 Six Days, Seven Nights	2550	\$23,564,918	\$23,564,918
3 A Perfect Murder	2845	\$16,015,663	\$39,112,241
4 Can't Hardly Wait	1987	\$12,211,644	\$12,211,644
5 Godzilla	3310	\$8,774,903	\$126,226,346
6 Hope Floats	2404	\$8,182,628	\$41,090,213
7 Deep Impact	2624	\$6,086,751	\$130,367,211
8 The Horse Whisperer	2286	\$6,040,056	\$60,487,771
9 Dirty Work	1776	\$5,523,666	\$5,523,666
10 Titanic	975	\$1,844,218	\$584,514,665

UK/IRELAND BOX OFFICE

TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS	TOTAL TAKINGS
1 The Wedding Singer	271	£1,463,717	£2,962,548
2 Siding Doors	280	£971,949	£9,480,831
3 Deep Impact	337	£692,526	£8,810,395
4 The General	85	£243,201	£1,140,227
5 Titanic	166	£230,130	£67,330,536
6 Wishmaster	177	£194,653	£1,029,659
7 Scream 2	149	£173,236	£7,654,180
8 Red Corner	155	£164,160	£470,552
9 Dark City	131	£123,266	£810,561
10 Scif Upper Lies	87	£114,734	£114,734

MEXICO BOX OFFICE

TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS	TOTAL TAKINGS
1 Deep Impact	235	\$856,693	\$6,590,065
2 Hard Rain	150	\$404,979	\$404,979
3 Hush	79	\$207,546	\$503,751
4 US Marshals	120	\$192,220	\$2,434,539
5 Species 2	104	\$129,381	\$503,495
6 Fallen	60	\$129,236	\$651,126
7 Most Wanted	65	\$125,556	\$922,971
8 La Primera Noche	60	\$98,783	\$1,516,514
9 Live Flesh	23	\$87,581	\$318,607
10 Titanic	64	\$83,818	\$25,615,479

RUSHES

MIKE HIGGINS

LIAM NEESON (below) is developing a taste for the blarney. The big man, who showed us the cuddly side of Michael Collins in Neil Jordan's biopic, is in talks to play a somewhat less heroic Irishman in the film adaptation of Frank McCourt's biographical best-seller, *Angela's Ashes*, which Alan Parker will direct. Variety reports that Neeson is being pencilled in to play the author's alcoholic father, Malachy, alongside Emily 'Breaking the Waves' Watson as McCourt's long-suffering wife, Angela.

RICHARD 'the smirk' Gere, whose current film *Red Corner* is underwhelming audiences the country over at the moment, looks to be back on safer territory with the news that he's attached to the romantic drama, *Autumn in New York*. Should the rumours prove founded, the pouting hunk will play a footloose, middle-aged playboy, who decides to put his philandering days behind him when he falls in love with a wholesome girl half his age.

FANCY picking up a best actor Oscar? Gain a few pounds, strut

before camera, shed them, strut before camera once more - repeat until a tuxedoed Billy Crystal reads your name out in March. Robert De Niro pioneered the technique in *Raging Bull* nearly 20 years ago and Tom Hanks is now set to reprise the crash diet that contributed to his Academy Award success in *Philadelphia*.

It's reported that Dreamworks are assembling Hanks, *Forrest Gump* director Rober Zemeckis and the pen behind *Apollo 13*, William Broyles Jr, for *The Castaways*, a contemporary drama in which Hanks will play a man stranded on a desert island.

Effecting the laboured attention to detail of which the Academy is so enamoured, the production will film its opening scenes before halting to allow Hanks to bring his weight down. While his star lays off the lard, Zemeckis will stuff another film down his throat, so to speak, and turn round the production of *What Lies*

Beneath, a supernatural thriller with Harrison Ford. Once Hanks has acquired a suitably withered pallor, *The Castaways* will go back into production.

VIVE la Nicholson: News arrives of Jack Nicholson's perplexing jaunt to Cuba where he recently flew in at the invitation of the state-run film institute, reportedly accompanied by a pack of lawyers and producers. Nicholson kept his lips sealed about the prospect of making a film on the island, but it's thought that the cigar-loving actor will also visit the Partagas tobacco factory in Havana.

There is another school of thought which suggests Nicholson will take a shady post in the Castro regime and oversee the country's slow but sure transition to a free market economy. Who better to offer guidance on the evils of capitalism than one of Hollywood's greatest hell-raising hedonists?



هنا من الاصل

هكذا من الازل

Love rolls up for the odd couple

Porkies meets Lolita in the shadow of Henry James... and it works. By Geoffrey Macnab

Beverly Hills 90210 and *Love and Death on Long Island* have something in common. What is it? Jason Priestley. At first glance, the presence of a strapping young American TV star in a low-budget British art-house movie seems a little incongruous. "But I felt I needed somebody who had those heart-throb looks, that fragility, that sort of puppyishness," says director Richard Kwietniowski. "Jason had that vulnerability I was looking for - I obviously couldn't have used Mark Wahlberg."

Priestley is cast true to type as American teenage idol Ronnie Bostock, the star of the *Hot Points College* films. There is, though, a twist to the tale. This time, the character obsessed with Ronnie isn't a teenage girl - he is a fusty old English novelist by the name of Giles De'Ath (John Hurt). After taking refuge from the rain in his local cinema, Giles becomes enraptured by Bostock's beauty. He buys a video recorder so he can freeze-frame his favourite moments from *Hot Points College II*. Eventually, he sets off across the Atlantic so he can meet Bostock in person.

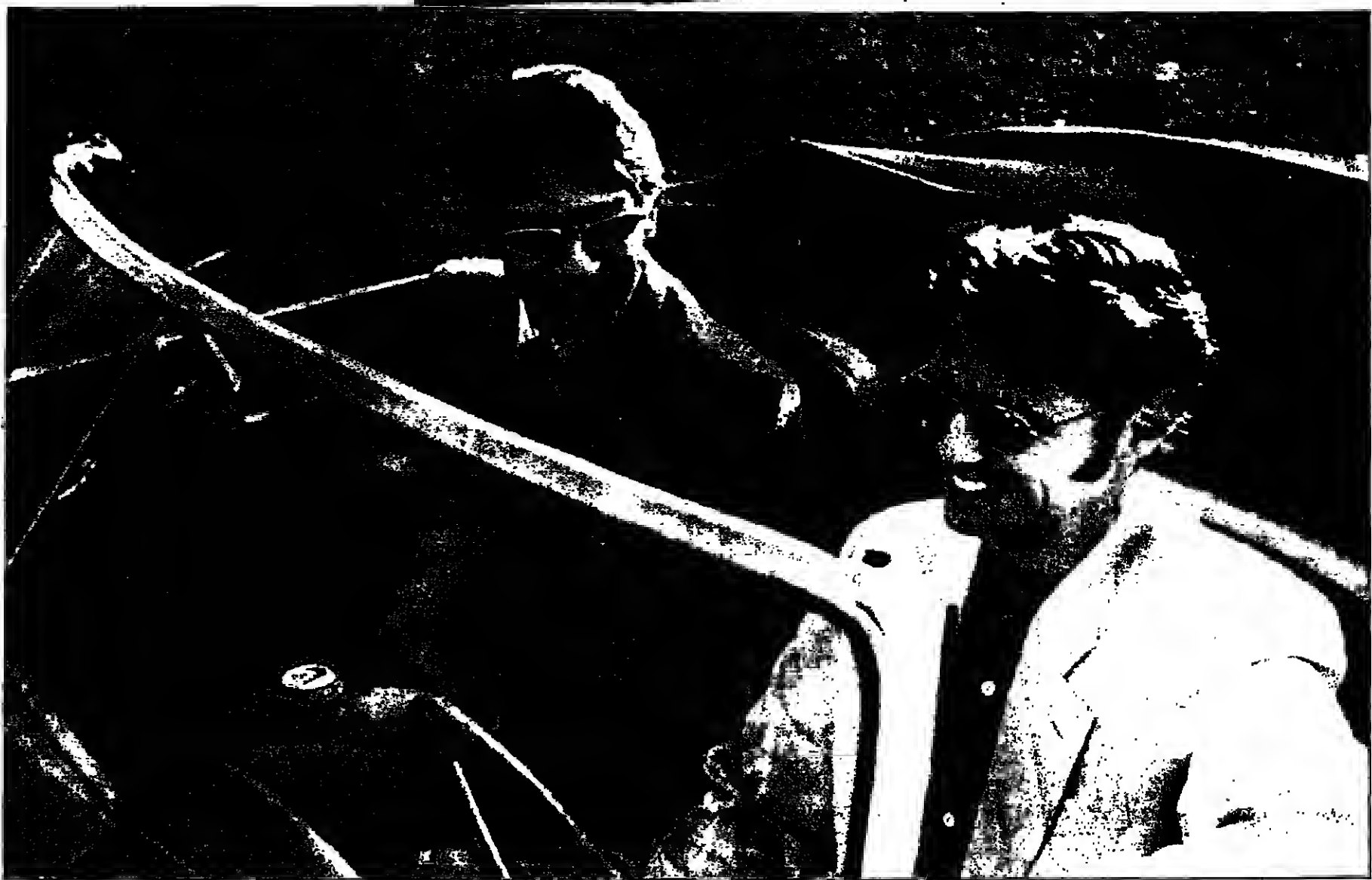
While writing the screenplay, Kwietniowski used to put photographs of Priestley and John Hurt side by side on his desk, trying to imagine what they might look like on a poster. The combination always made him smile, but he was told by friends that it was absolutely inconceivable two such different ac-

tors would ever appear in the same film. Hurt, the classically-trained virtuoso, star of such films as *The Naked Civil Servant*, *The Elephant Man* and *Midnight Express*, and Priestley, the bobbysox idol, were worlds apart. That, though, was the point - the gulf between them in real life was in keeping with the characters they were to play on screen.

As Kwietniowski acknowledges, the idea of the high-brow European submerging himself in the minutiae of US popular culture isn't altogether new. When Vladimir Nabokov was researching *Lolita*, he used to travel on the back of buses, eavesdropping on the chatter of the local schoolgirls to make sure he had their slang down pat. Kwietniowski took his research to equal extremes, quizzing American teenagers to make sure he used their argot correctly and didn't, for example, have characters saying "blonvings!" when in reality they'd say "Totally!"

He acknowledges that the obsessed novelist hero of *Love and Death on Long Island* isn't so very far removed from Nabokov's Humbert Humbert. "One of the things that I like best about Nabokov is that he writes in the US as a European. In his work, you always have the sense of the pleasure he gets from the directness of American culture, its confidence. For instance, when Lolita goes to summer camp, it's called Camp Clinch. Humbert is a bit taken aback by that."

Whereas Nabokov's Humbert is a monster who uses his eloquence to justify his behaviour, Giles is a far



Pairing John Hurt with Jason Priestley in 'Love and Death on Long Island' (above) was crucial for director Kwietniowski (left)

not at all the type of vehicle that was likely to appeal to the teenage fans who idolise him. "But I had a hunch that he would be mature enough to see what the script was doing and not be threatened by it," says Kwietniowski. "I thought he could bring elements of his own experience to the character."

Many of the movie's best jokes come at the expense of US teen comedies about dumb college kids with oversized libidos. Kwietniowski argues that the satire is even-handed. If *Porkies*-style US stag humour is made to look ridiculous, so is the absurdly conceited behaviour of the English novelist abroad.

In preparation for shooting the *Hot Points College* sequences, Kwietniowski watched dozens of teen movies. "I wanted the extracts to feel authentic. But I found that those movies were really quite strange. Most of them feature more male nudity than female nudity."

How can this be? "They're made for guys. But I didn't just want to make fun of them. I wanted to shoot those spoof sequences in a way which suggested that Giles' obsession was not ridiculous - that it is possible to find beauty where no-one ever thinks of looking for it." In the course of the film, Giles, the French-poetry-reading, high-culture snob, becomes so intrigued by Ronnie's teen movies that he even tries to write a script for one. Kwietniowski avoids the usual clichés about the Old World innocent abroad in the big, bad American city. As he puts it, "I thought it would be pretty dreary if the displaced Englishman went to New York and was mugged in Times Square and everything was loud and boorish."

Instead, Giles ends up in a leafy, close-knit, suburban community. Rather than dismiss him as an eccentric, the locals in the Cheera-like diner around the corner from his motel accept him as one of their own.

When Kwietniowski first read Gilbert Adair's novel, he was convinced he could make a film of it. Adair was not so sure. "I took Gilbert to lunch to try to get the rights," Kwietniowski remembers, "and he told me that he didn't see how it could be made into a film by anyone." But eventually Kwietniowski talked him round.

As the screenplay progressed, each fresh draft went from director to novelist. "Gilbert was very, very useful with suggestions. I remember once he phoned up to tell me that Giles split an infinitive on page 29. I was horrified."

It has taken an extraordinarily long time for *Love and Death on Long Island* to reach the screen. Kwietniowski started work on the screenplay in the winter of 1992. The film was ready in time for the 1997 Cannes Festival. Now, over a year later, it finally emerges in British cinemas. The delay may have some-

thing to do with the way it resists easy categorisation.

"Is it a British film?" Kwietniowski asks himself. "No. Is it an American film? Not really. Is it gay-themed? Well, yes and no. I liked the idea of it being an entertainment that works on its own terms."

The crux comes when Giles tells Ronnie that he loves him. "Everybody who has ever said that knows what it feels like. You hold your breath and wait. It's almost become irrelevant who he is saying it to," remarks Kwietniowski, pointing out that most audiences are so caught up in the emotion of the moment that they fail to realise that they're watching Giles proposition another man 30 years younger than him. "If you didn't know what they had seen, you'd think they were talking about *The English Patient*."

Love and Death on Long Island opens on 3 July

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British talent agents used to be gentlemen. Now an American invader has shattered the old ways. By Tim Adler

The rogue traders of the film industry

And so my very first client jumps out of a first-floor window and breaks his leg, thinking I'm not about to be hounded by some neo-Nazi theatre director." Duncan Heath, London chairman of International Creative Management (ICM), one of the most powerful talent agencies in the world, laughs and finishes another outrageous story.

Heath has already told me a scurrilous anecdote about Gary Oldman and Joan Plowright, and another highly amusing tale about how he founded his company with the winnings from a race-horse. Heath's gap-toothed grin and mop of blond hair give him the appearance of a mischievous schoolboy, but the truth is that he is a highly respected figure in the world of film and television whose clients include Hugh Grant and Anthony Hopkins.

The slightly chaotic atmosphere of Heath's office is underlined by its country-house door and by the twin Labradors lying at his feet. The only clue that you haven't strayed into the sitting room of a country manor is the pile of felt-tipped scripts on Heath's desk. However, people in the film industry say that Heath has been unperturbed by the relaunch of ICM's chief competitor, the William Morris Agency, and in particular by the arrival of Charles Finch, son of actor Peter Finch, who has been flown in from Los Angeles to run the London office.

Producers say that before William Morris's relaunch last summer the British talent agency scene had a cosy, tweedy atmosphere. Finch's arrival, they say, shook the business by the scruff of its neck. "Charles Finch definitely made the other agents in the UK sit up and

take notice," says Phil Alberstat, an entertainment lawyer.

Finch certainly hit the ground running last summer, announcing that William Morris (who include John Hannah and Emmanuelle Béart among their clients) had "packaged" its first European movie, *Rogue Trader*, starring Ewan McGregor as disgraced City financier Nick Leeson.

Packaging - whereby a talent agency represents the star, the director and the writer on a project and then sells it on to a studio for an all-in fee - has been around a long time in America. It dates back to the 1920s when talent agency MCA (whose clients included James Stewart and Fred Astaire) offered entire radio shows - stars, producers, gag-men and so on - to the broadcast networks.

By the 1980s packaging had become commonplace in Hollywood and led to such turkeys as *Legal Eagles*, starring Robert Redford and Debra Winger and directed by Ivan Reitman - all of whom were represented by the same talent agency, CAA. Between 1976 and 1986 CAA itself calculates that it put together at least 170 films - only a few of which are remembered today.

Heath rubbished William Morris's groundbreaking claims, pointing out that ICM had been helping its clients put their own projects together for years. "What other agencies call packaging, we call facilitating," he explains.

But observers say that what really rattled Heath was William Morris's decision to break a decades-old gentlemen's agreement between both agencies not to steal each other's clients. The understanding had been that it was fine for a dissatisfied client to approach another agency, but on no account should an agency court business.



Pawns in the agents' war: with 'Rogue Trader' (above), William Morris announced their arrival as a player in Europe; their array of stars includes Hugh Grant (left), while ICM have Emmanuelle Béart (far left) and John Hannah

Again, the practice of stealing a rival's clients is well established in Hollywood. One talent agent talked about the walls vibrating with the rush when his company poached Kristin Scott-Thomas, star of *The English Patient*, from another agency. "Some call it capitalism - I call it natural selection," talent agent Gavin Polone told US film industry magazine *The Hollywood Reporter*. "It's like being out in the jungle. The bigger gorilla gets to have more food and more female gorillas. That's what happens when you're the Alpha male."

Here in Britain the gloves came off at the beginning of this year when Michael Foster, Heath's co-chairman, announced that he was quitting ICM to look after the business interests of disc jockey Chris Evans. William Morris went into overdrive, sending bouquets of flowers to actors and actresses all over London. Foster sent his own bouquet back, but now appears to be represented by his former rival. ICM threw the next punch, wooing literary agents Alan Radcliffe and Michael McCoy from William Morris and hiring Lindsey Posner, Lord Putnam's former lawyer, to package projects on behalf of its clients. William Morris, meanwhile, moved out of its cramped offices in London's Soho into new

Mayfair headquarters, firing most of the existing staff. Finch then hired Luc Roeg, a young, well-liked producer, to make friends with the film-making community and go eyeball-to-eyeball with Posner.

The feeling is, however, that Finch failed to land the knock-out blow when Foster announced his departure. None of Foster's clients decamped to William Morris and Finch is unlikely to be presented with the same opportunity again.

IN PERSON Charles Finch is so full of energy that you half expect to get a shock when you shake hands with him. He takes me around his swanky new offices, showing off a memento from a recent climbing expedition with Eric Fellner, the man behind *Bean* and *Fargo*. The tobacco-coloured leather walls and understated Conran furniture whisper large overhangs. Finch takes me out onto the roof terrace to show me the view looking down Piccadilly. I estimate that we must be close to where Alexander Korda, the only film mogul to have come out of England, used to have his offices. It occurs to me that in some way the baton has been passed from the flamboyant entrepreneurs of the 1930s and 1940s to the sober-suited deal-makers of today.

Further down the avenue, the unmistakable glow of film lighting pours out of one of the windows of the Ritz Hotel. Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts are across the street shooting the follow-up to *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and Finch suggests that we join them. Suddenly, a verse from the New Testament pops into my head, the passage where Jesus is taken high up a mountain and shown all the kingdoms of the world. The thought frightens me and I am glad when we turn to go back inside.

From Deeley Plaza to the top of the heap

Spending 40 years at the helm of the US film industry has its perks. Playing a round with Bill Clinton, for one. By Geoffrey Macnab

Before Jack Valenti entered the movie business, he had his own advertising and political consulting agency in Houston. In 1960, Lyndon Johnson, then candidate for Vice-President and a fellow Texan, asked Valenti's agency to handle all the radio and television for the Kennedy-Johnson campaign in Texas. Three years later, Valenti was on the motorcade in Dallas on the day that Kennedy was killed. "The new President ordered me aboard Air Force One and hired me that day as his special assistant," Valenti recalls. "Of course, when your office is next to the President, you get to meet everybody." In his time at the White House with LBJ, Valenti hobnobbed with all the movie moguls of the period. In 1966, Lew Wasserman, then head of Universal, talked him into taking the job as President of the Motion Picture Association of America, "the voice and advocate of the American motion picture, home video and television industries", as it styles itself. That is where he has stayed ever since.

In person, Valenti seems the kind of character who might have spilled out of the pages of a Mark Twain or Sinclair Lewis novel. The diminutive, Harvard-educated Texan is a supremely eloquent phrase-maker who preaches his message with all the conviction of a latter-day Elmer Gantry. In David Puttnam's words, "he is a brilliant and indefatigable lobbyist for the American film industry".

There are seven members of the MPAA - Disney, Sony MGM, Paramount, Fox, Universal and Warner Bros. As Valenti ruefully puts it, "they kill each other every day in the marketplace. It's the most virulently competitive group of companies I have ever seen in my life". His task is to make them seen in *my* life. This task is to make them seen by the long enough to identify their common interests, which he lists as follows: "Piracy, which they are all interested in combating, the fight against barriers governing the future without being and how we get to the future without being discriminated against or baffled by governmental regulations." In other words, he

'I make sure American movies can move freely and unhindered round the world'

complimenting the British industry on the recently published Film Policy Review, he cautioned against State interference (government cannot be the primal force which ignites the creative flame nor can governments command superior films to be made); he encouraged British filmmakers to go after private risk capital, and he threw in some choice quotes from Churchill, Bagehot and Lord Macaulay for good measure. After London, Valenti was due to go to Paris and then on to Rome. In both cities, one imagines, he will also have charmed his hosts while making sure that they heard the Hollywood message loud and clear.

The single biggest change in his 30 years at the helm of the MPAA, Valenti claims, is the way that film-making costs have spiralled. "The average cost of a film made by the majors in 1967 is \$53m. That's the negative cost. Add to that \$22m plus for marketing, advertising, prints and development," he remarks, beginning to sound like a housewife computing groceries, and you have \$75m as your average cost investment which you must recoup. "Only



Jack Valenti (right, with the Bafta chairman, Tim Angel, last week)

three out of ten studio movies make their money back in the US market alone. That's why other markets are so important and why Valenti will cajole, flatter, and, if need be, intimidate, to ensure that those markets are kept open.

Ask him his greatest achievement in his three decades at the helm of the MPAA, and Valenti has no doubt. "Making sure that the American movie can move freely and unhindered around the world, and to let its

fluence over cinemagoers has nothing to do with budgets or marketing or stars. "What it comes down to is: are you telling a story that people like. Is your dramatic narrative compelling? Nobody has a monopoly on ideas. Nobody can bully the audience."

Valenti himself is a budding storyteller. "I've just got into the novel-writing business in the last six years," he draws, "and I tell you I thoroughly enjoy it. I write at

'What it comes down to is: are you telling a story that people like? Nobody can bully the audience'

weekends and I write on airplane trips." His last novel, *Protect And Defend*, has been optioned by RKO Pictures and is currently in development. "I'll see how it goes. I'm not rehearsing any of my Academy Award acceptance speeches yet."

Valenti returns to his main theme - pro-elytising on behalf of Hollywood. In the last three years, he claims, Hollywood has invested \$3bn in the British film economy. "It's a huge investment, larger than we make anywhere else in the world. The reason why is that this is more or less a free economy. It's competitive and hospitable to investors."

These are just the kind of words that Chris Smith and Tim Clarke, the British ministers responsible for film, no doubt want to hear. But ask Valenti about two issues which are currently vexing the European film industry, and he is brutally frank. Until Seagram's takeover earlier in the summer, Polygram was the only European company with the same muscle as the Hollywood majors. Does Valenti welcome the fact that Polygram's film interests may now fall into American hands?

"It's not whether I welcome it or not," he replies, "it's the marketplace. The European Union has a hundred million more people than the United States. Its gross domestic product is equal to the United States ... so why didn't some German company or Dutch company or some partnership of Italian, Spanish and British companies buy Polygram?" He is equally blunt about the mooted EU action to break up UIP, the US distribution outfit. "I never understood how there could be any indictment against UIP when they only have 18 per cent of the market ... how on earth you could proclaim that UIP has monopolistic tendencies when 82 per cent of the market is owned by other entities passes my understanding."

Back in the early 1970s, Valenti used to offer Cassandra-like predictions about how home video would cripple the American film industry. (Ironically, video is currently the largest source of income for MPAA members.) He is glad to have been proved wrong on that score, but now, in the digital era, he is forecasting that piracy is the great new danger. Given that he announces in the next breath that last year more people went to US cinema theatres at any time since 1959, his worries seem a little misplaced. Still, Valenti admits that trying to predict future trends is often a waste of time. "In Hollywood," he says, quoting William Goldman's famous aphorism, "nobody knows anything."

Outside films, Valenti's abiding passion is golf. He played a round last year with Bill Clinton. "By the way, he's a pretty good golfer," Valenti admits that he is no Sam Snead ("I'm somewhere between bad and terrible") but he does have one piece of advice for anybody invited to tee off with the US President - don't talk business or you'll never be invited back. And, on a final note, no, Valenti, who is already in his seventies, has no immediate intention of quitting the MPAA so he can spend more time practising his putting. "I'm going to be in this job as long as it's fun and as long as I can work a 14 or 15-hour day without collapsing in a dead heap."

FAST TRACK

GRADUATING TO THE WORLD OF WORK

Forces promote idea of a fairer cop

Despite recent scandals, the police are trying to drive out sexism and attract more women. By Meg Carter

FANCY a career in blue? Some do, but many are put off - particularly women reluctant to invest their future career in what many believe to be a hostile, sexist culture. Yesterday, *The Independent* reported that a woman Chief Constable was just one of a number of female officers who had withheld news of their pregnancies for fear that it would damage their chances of promotion. The news followed the criticisms government inspectors levelled last month at North Yorkshire police over its handling of a sex harassment case in 1996. The force demonstrated "little evidence of commitment" to improving equal opportunities, and employed no women officers above the rank of inspector, their report showed.

Even so, an increasing number of the police's graduate intake (one in five of all police recruits are now graduates) are women.

Opportunities exist for the brightest to be taken on to the police forces' fast-track career development scheme. There are 52 police forces in the UK: 39 in England, four in Wales, eight in Scotland and one in Northern Ireland. London has two forces: the Metropolitan police and the City of London police.

Graduates have a choice of three routes in. First, they can apply along with everyone else as a "standard entrant". Second, they can apply directly to the police forces' fast-track career development programme, the Accelerated Promotion Scheme for graduates (APSG). Third, they can apply directly for a number of civilian support services jobs - such as IT, personnel or finance.

The APSG is co-ordinated centrally by the Home Office. "Standard entrants" apply direct to their local police force. There is no central recruitment scheme for civilian support staff - jobs are advertised locally, and when they arise.

APSG is a highly selective scheme for graduates, able to demonstrate

Patrick Stait, police graduate liaison officer with the Inspectorate of Constabulary at the Home Office.

Ambitious graduates should be aware that, even if taken on to the APSG, all must serve two years as a uniformed beat officer. Essential basic qualities include a high level of aerobic fitness, keen observation skills, the ability to handle difficult situations with sensitivity and perception and apply sound personal judgement to any given situation.

"It is essential people are happy with the core of the job - basic policing duties," Superintendent Stait explains. While there are opportunities to specialise, this will only be through temporary secondment to other departments.

Competition for places on the APSG is tough - fewer than two per cent of applicants make it through. Key demonstrable skills are strategic thinking and action planning, leadership and team-building abilities, decision-making and achieve-

There is a perception that the police service is male-dominated, and high-profile discrimination cases don't help

ment objectives and strong interpersonal skills. Graduates are taken on from a broad range of universities and academic backgrounds. Health and fitness are stumbling blocks for many hopefuls - of more than 60,000 people who apply to join the police each year, only 5,000 or 6,000 make it through the door. Starting salaries are £15,500.

Every successful applicant goes through the same initial training programme and two-year probationary period. Basic training lasts for around 15 weeks at a National Police Training Centre, followed by operational training. For fast-track graduate recruits, this period includes two residential phases at a regional train-



Graduate or not, every policeman or woman has to spend two years as a uniformed beat officer

ing centre for basic training in law, procedures, interpersonal skills, social and community awareness, self defence and fitness. In the third year, participants must pass their sergeant's exams and take the Accelerated Promotion Course combining operational experience and a residential course at Police Staff College in Bramshill, Hampshire, where the focus is on self-development. The APC is also available to non-graduates.

Inspector is the highest level to which the APSG leads directly. This

is a middle-management position commanding a salary of between £30,000 and £32,500. For APSG recruits, sergeant level provides the first opportunity to specialise through attachments in different branches of the police service, such as Special Branch or Fraud Squad.

There are opportunities to join the National Criminal Intelligence Service, too, although Superintendent Stait points out that specialisation is always temporary. Serving officers will be seconded to specialist divisions for a number of years, but most will be expected to return at some time to active duty.

Today, nine of the UK's chief constables are graduates of the APSG

scheme. Only one of these is a woman - one of just two female chief constables in the UK. This, however, is an improvement on three years ago when there were none.

Some may still believe the role of women in the Nineties' police force is an inferior one but, Superintendent Stait insists, no female officer will find herself restricted to back-room or "softer" duties. All recruits undergo the same training, face the same career opportunities and the same dangers. No formal obstacles stand in women's way of rising to the highest ranks, he claims, although he does admit not every force gets it 100 per cent right. "There is a perception the police service is male-dominated and high-profile discrimination cases don't do anything to help," he says. "But we are trying to improve the situation. And if you look at the success rates today, you will see that, in fact, women do better than men. In the last recorded year, we offered more APSG to women than to men for the first time."

While the percentage of female officers in the police force remains low, numbers are growing, he insists. Overall, the ratio of new recruits is 65:35 male:female; amongst the APSG intake the ratio is marginally better - 60:40.

"Whether it will ever reach 50:50, we just don't know," Superintendent Stait admits. As in the area of ethnic recruitment, it's an uphill struggle. But with initiatives ranging from the introduction of job sharing, career breaks to part-time working, he is confident the force can make further improvements.

You need a thick skin and a strong sense of humour

Six years ago Alison Halford concluded her sex discrimination case against Merseyside Constabulary with an out of court settlement. Here, the policeman of 30 years writes a cautionary open letter to any young women considering a graduate career in the Police



BY ALISON HALFORD
FORMER ASSISTANT
CHIEF CONSTABLE,
MERSEYSIDE POLICE

Congratulations! You've survived that probing extended interview and you think you're on your way.

When I first joined the police in 1960, I was interviewed for 'the job' topless in true police style - in hindsight, an outrageous abuse and nothing to do with the medical, but I knew no better and unquestioningly accepted my fate. Spiteful, sexist memos, crude nicknames, reference to boobs, bonking and blow jobs are just some examples of how 'the job' treats its women.

The shift work, cold dawn patrols, gruesome traffic accidents, hopeless drunks or the harrowing abuse of a child are the job's bread and butter - the greatest challenge will be how you tackle the macho

culture which sees intelligent, capable women as a threat, good only for the butt of laddish vulgarity. Your capacity to cope with the Police force's unchecked sexist culture will fashion your career and determine whether or not you make it to the top. The likelihood is that one in every eight of you will be verbally or sexually harassed during your two-year probationary period.

You will not be sure whether this abuse is part of the force's commonplace initiation ceremonies, which all new recruits must endure, or whether you are being singled out because you are a woman

and resented for joining 'the job' as a clever clogs. You'll also have a problem finding someone to confide in - experience has taught me that women who make it in the police pull the ladder up behind them. There are a lot of well meaning publications on equal opportunities, but progress towards protecting vulnerable women officers is slow.

Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary's 1993 inspection of Merseyside police revealed that the 'philosophy of equal opportunities' was often seen as an 'additional extra' and not an 'integral part of the management and organisation process'.

In the meantime, network with female friends. Keep a covert diary of things which trouble you, but don't tell the boss. Trust no-one!

Grow a thick hide and an outrageous sense of humour. Try to bring others onto your side to ridicule the bullies. Go ballistic if, for example, hard porn is found in your locker. Threaten to involve the media. Write to your MP if all that fails, quit fast. Good Luck.

A-Z OF EMPLOYERS

GWR RADIO

Age: 13.

History: When Wiltshire Radio and Radio West (Bristol) merged in 1985, GWR was the result. From 1992, the group expanded acquiring radio stations across the south of England - including Chiltern Radio - and then in the Midlands, and finally, Europe. In 1997, GWR bought Classic FM, after being instrumental in its birth five years before. The group now plans to operate the UK's first national digital radio service.

Address: Headquarters is in Oxford Street, London, the same base as GWR's sales company Opus. The group has 36 stations in the UK, plus others in Austria, Finland, Poland and Bulgaria, and associates in South Africa.

Ambience: Each radio station is self-managing, with teams of between 16 and 30 people, so it's quite a cosy atmosphere. There are several departments (sales, engineering, production), and employees are encouraged to build links across the group.

Vital statistics: The company, which last year had a potential audience of 11 million listeners in the UK, employs around 750 staff, plus another 100 world-wide. Last year's revenue was estimated at approximately £73.8m with £14.1m pre-tax profits.

Lifestyle: A spokesman claims it's "hard work, good fun and a bit



of glamour". Hours for operational staff can be long, but there's a chance to use your initiative.

Easy to get into? Commitment and ability are the two major provisos for a job. Some qualifications are required if you want to get into the engineering side, while if you have aspirations to produce or present, you need to be talented and persistent, with some experience (in college radio, for example) under your belt.

Glistening alumni: Radio 1's Chris Moyles, Dale Winton and Capital FM's Neil Fox and James Cannon, plus Radio 1's head of production Grant Tuckerfield.

Pay: Very much down to local conditions: the bigger the station is, the more you get paid; the downside is that it's more difficult to get a spot and keep it on these sta-

tions. Presenters have the potential to earn a six-figure sum.

Training: Each department runs its own training course, and the group itself runs management and development courses. Managers hold regular sessions to assess training needs. "The radio business isn't terribly qualification-driven; it's more about practical capability," says a spokesman.

Facilities: Not much in the way of canteens, although a spokesman points out that "every station has something to make coffee in, and somewhere to drink it". There are also plenty of bars and pubs near most stations.

Who's the boss? Ralph Bernard, who founded Wiltshire Radio, is the overall chief, and has been since 1985.

RACHELLE THACKRAY

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, different societies have maintained their own accepted codes of what is, and isn't, polite. In Inuit society, for instance, it is considered good manners to greet someone by rubbing your nose against theirs. In high society, you are merely expected to lift it contemptuously and look sneeringly down at it. Corporate society is no different - it too has its own, strictly laid-down rules of ethical conduct. Like most office rules (Do Not Use This Photocopier For Personal Use, Please Wash Your OWN Coffee Mug!) etc these are inevitably ignored by the entire workforce.

Here, though - in a vain attempt to foster a more courteous working environment, is a reminder of the most basic rudiments of Workplace Etiquette.

Correspondence
The accepted way to end an e-mail is neither with Yours Faithfully nor Yours Sincerely, but with the phrase "seeya" or an indecipherable little symbol along the lines of <:) or <:*)>)

On receipt of any e-mail containing a joke, however unfunny, it is common courtesy to duplicate copies of this to every other name in your Address Book file as soon as possible. This requirement takes priority over all other outstanding jobs. Eating and drinking

It is customary for most meals to begin with a soup course, at least until you've figured out how to stop the vending machine dispensing a cup of tepid Oxtail every time you press the cappuccino button.

If unsure which fork to use in the staff canteen, a good rule of thumb is to start from the one with the smallest amount of congealed tomato sauce encrusted on it. After luncheon, the scurrilous

CORPORATE STRATEGIES

THE INSIDE TRACK ON BECOMING A CONSUMMATE PROFESSIONAL
20. MANNERS MAKETH THE MANAGER...
OFFICE ETIQUETTE



gossip should be passed from left to right around the table.

It is bad manners to gulp your food down in a rush. Managers should allow at least four hours for lunch: alcohol takes a long time to digest.

A brief word about cutlery: the large, blunt ended knives are for eating fish, the smaller, sharper, serrated ones are reserved for stabbing your fellow workers in the back. In the lift

Do not push in front of your colleagues. You can infuriate them far more effectively by lagging behind and sticking your foot out to jam the door just before it closes.

In the smoking room
It is extremely uncool NOT to smoke. If someone is using this

area purely as somewhere to eat their low-calorie yogurt in relative peace and quiet, you are quite at liberty to glare at them, point to the Smoking Room sign and ask them to indulge in their disgustingly health-conscious practices elsewhere.

Dress code
Unlike high society, city society does not deem it a ghastly, humiliating faux pas to turn up in the same outfit as someone else. The phrase "Oh my God, I don't BELIEVE in Piers never said he'd be wearing a grey Marks and Spencers suit!" is seldom uttered in the Square Mile.

Telephone manner
(NB: the following list does not apply to anyone employed in a Re-

ceptionist capacity, who will never be required to use the telephone for any purpose other than chatting to Tracie about her personal life).

Remember, all callers enjoy listening to "The Girl From Ipanema" (synthesiser remix), particularly when they are paying 45 pence a minute for the privilege. It would be churlish not to offer an encore, particularly after stating that "it's ringing for you now, Sir!" to build up that sense of tense anticipation loved by all keen-edged professionals.

Similarly, using the telephone for personal calls is heavily frowned upon. You can do your bit to dissuade colleagues from this deceitful practice, by listening in on the other line and then relaying details of their private life to the girls in the typing pool. General courtesy

Always open the door for a woman - this will enable her to carry your tea through far more rapidly. It is rude to spy on people at work. Fortunately, very few employees in the security profession are guilty of such antisocial behaviour.

In the boardroom
When drawing up a seating plan, try to space male and female invitees equally around the table. A typical arrangement would go thus: boy, boy, boy, boy, girl, boy, boy, boy, boy. (The girl is, of course, there to take notes and provide light refreshments). The most fashionable time to arrive for a meeting is 15 minutes late. Arriving any earlier will give colleagues the impression that you have nothing else useful to do around the office. Which is probably true, but they don't need to know that, do they?

At the office party
Ignore all the above.

DEBBIE BARHAM

هكذا من الأصل



Firms across the board are now recruiting graduates through assessment centres, where the face-to-face interview is just one among many techniques

The week-long interview may be just the job for you

The assessment centre is the latest recruitment tool. But don't panic. By Mark Oliver

THEY MAY chill the spines of most graduates but assessment centres are becoming the new consensus in recruitment. Increasingly, firms are taking potential employees away for a few days so they can make better qualified decisions about who to hire.

But relax - you can drastically improve your chances with some forward thinking about what employers are looking for. "Interpersonal skills" are the buzz words at the centres, which test candidates' behavioural abilities more than subject knowledge. Firms across the board are looking for "people" people - dextrous in all the arts of communication.

Role plays, group discussions, and personality or "psychometric" tests typically make up the assessment. They can last anything from a day to a week and are often interspersed with more traditional interviews.

What firms are eager for is a certain "lightness of touch", reckons Alyson Burn, director of management consultants ABMD, who are running workshops on assessment centres this summer.

"Employer organisations have realised they can attain much more information on candidates' abilities via an assessment centre. After all, an interview is really just a self-report that is not backed up by any evidence of a candidate's ability to perform."

Ms Burn argues that a good candidate might not do themselves justice if they are not prepared. She said: "Candidates will often be facing the unexpected and this can lead to freezing on the day."

Barry Leskin, Head of Human Resources at Ernst & Young, said they are currently reconsidering their approach to recruitment to focus more on interpersonal skills. "What we are finding is that

some of the people whom we hired 10 or 15 years ago are intellectually bright but that's not enough. That will get us top-notch analysts but it's not all we need to move on in the future. We are after a range of skills, including an inner drive to win, a desire to make things happen and an interest in persuading others.

We have found that introverted people can become successful in some areas but are probably not going to become future partners."

His views chime with those of Ian Du Pre, a partner at Coopers & Lybrand: "We need people with developed interpersonal skills who can mix with clients because we are not a desk-bound organisation."

"What we do is so varied, one day you could be talking to members of a company's board, who might be from an aristocratic background; but the next day, you could be working down a mine."

"One assessment will normally

find you out, one way or another. Candidates can't rehearse sitting next to you at dinner."

Socialising with the interviewers and senior members of the firm can be one of the most stressful parts of the assessment experience. Unsurprisingly, it's the gung-ho world of advertising that throws up the worst horror stories.

One female account manager, now at a top London advertising firm, had a "nightmare" interview at

Saatchi & Saatchi before landing her current job.

"After an intensive day of assessment, where they had us doing things like building a bridge with paper clips, they took us to an Italian restaurant and plied us with wine."

"Some people had quite a lot to drink because of the stress and nobody felt they could leave until 12.30pm. As we did leave, two personnel people greeted us outside by handing out presentations that had to be prepared for 8.45am the next day. Some people were up all night. That was not nice and I don't know what it proved."

A female colleague's experience is more encouraging: "During dinner at my assessment, I managed to spill a whole bottle of red wine over one of the senior people. I thought that was it, but I still got the job."

Ms Burn advises that candidates should not become hung up on any early mistakes. She said: "It can be particularly upsetting but employers look at the overall performance. People need to rationalise a mistake and realise there will be other opportunities."

But if you are unsuccessful at an assessment centre, it is a good idea to try and find out why, says Alyson Burn: "Firms have something of a moral duty to tell you how you did but if they don't you should ask for feedback."

Ultimately, the trials of the centre will leave you stronger, Ms Burn claims.

"They are a good thing to do. These days, any professional manager or graduate, is very unlikely to get a job or a promotion without going through some kind of assessment."

For information about ABMD's assessment centre workshops, call Alyson Burn on 01753 892494

HOW TO HANDLE THE PRESSURE

Role plays
"Remain calm and think about what assessors are looking for," says Ms Burn. "Often they will be rating the ability to handle a difficult situation such as a confrontation. You need to show flexibility. They may have a scenario where you are dealing with a subordinate who has not been up to scratch."

"Rather than start hammering the table and firing them, the assessors will be impressed if you listen and find out the source of the problem. The employee may be dealing with a bereavement or have a genuine difficulty."

Group discussions
Strike a balance between wading in like a tyrant and being a mouse. "It's about getting a middle way," said Ms Burn. "If you dominate group discussions there is a danger you will come across as very domineering."

"You have to tread a fine line of showing yourself to be a good leader but also being very aware

of other people's contributions to the group discussion. Let them hold the floor when necessary."

Typically, assessors are turned off by candidates who come across as arrogant or who are not prepared to consider other people's viewpoints, or who have problems asserting themselves."

Praising other people's good ideas will show assessors you are a team player. Resolving disputes between others will also put you in a positive light. Any criticisms you level at other candidates should always be constructive. You may have better knowledge of a topic but resist the temptation to embarrass a fellow candidate."

"The assessors want to see both how well you can express a viewpoint, and how you handle criticism," Ms Burn said. Always try to reach a conclusion even if it is not a unanimous one.

Psychometric tests
These break down into two types: ability and personality

(usually multiple choice) and arguably it is the latter which produces the most anxiety.

"People can feel crushed if they feel they have done badly," says Ms Burn. "At worst there may be a feeling of failure as a person." This feeling is misplaced, she argues.

"You can't prepare for a personality test. I think that would be unethical, and not in the ultimate interests of the person. You have to be genuine, that's why firms do them, because the truth will out. You can't keep up a front for three days."

A classic question might be to choose what you would prefer to do with your spare time from a list of options such as "go to a party" or "go on a long walk". This is an over-simplified example but it is used to establish if people are introverts or extroverts."

While firms don't want Coco the Clown, or anyone too brash, broadly speaking they may be more attracted to extroverts for their communication skills and confidence.

The firms that need graduates who can make it

Industry wants to attract more people with good degrees. By Paul Gosling

THE SHORTAGE of good graduates going into manufacturing is causing concern to the Confederation of British Industries and top companies. But salaries in the sector continue to lag far behind some of those available in commerce and the professions.

"The general feeling is that not enough of the good and the best engineers are going into the manufacturing industry," says Liz Amos, director of the Foundation for Manufacturing. "That is an issue for manufacturing, especially for companies wanting to go into higher value added areas."

"We have a perception problem in manufacturing, which is still seen as the heavyweight industries like shipbuilding. But if you look at all parts of the manufacturing process then there is now a very high IT content going into engineered products, which moves value up the supply chain."

Part of the problem, concedes Ms Amos, is that manufacturing companies are not matching salaries available elsewhere. She gives the example of two bright Cambridge graduates who are going into consultancy on starting salaries of £40,000. GKN says that its "gauge" starting salary for engineering graduates is £18,000. British Steel starting pay is between £16 and £17,000. Smiths Industries talks of its "ball park" starting salaries being £18-£20,000.

Ms Amos says that another problem is that graduates are worried that it can take several years in manufacturing before they are given jobs with responsibility, or promotion. She argues that if more universities focused on practical problem-solving in their courses, rather than desk-bound learning, then engineering would be seen as a more exciting and attractive career.

The CBI believes that manufacturing does not deserve its occasionally dour image. "Graduates should look long and hard at manufacturing as it is now, rather than its image of the early Eighties," says Fiona Underwood, head of the CBI's manufacturing group. "It is now a very high-tech industry. There was a period when jobs and promotion were sluggish, but the opportunities now are quite wide and varied."

Fiona Kellington, human resources executive at Smiths Industries, says that her company is stressing the exciting opportunities in the engineering sector. "We

cover such a wide area, with medical, chemical and engineering sides," she explains. "We always have opportunities for graduates, and train people internally on our high-fliers programme. This brings people through the system quickly, and we appoint our directors internally from that group. There is excellent career progression, and opportunities to move around."

"Mechanical engineers can be anywhere in the group, from working on the new Boeing, to developing new medical equipment in the medical division."

Sharon Goymer, graduate recruitment administrator for GKN, says that while it is looking for engineers, it only wants people who have good degrees: "We have our own graduate training programme, with the majority of entrants being engineers with mechanical, manufacturing, production, aeronautic or aerospace engineering degrees. We are quite strict, and normally only take people with a 2.3 degree or above."

"The number we recruit does vary year to year, and we are taking on 35 this year. But if we see other good people we will take them on. We put the graduates into hard core engineering, giving them jobs that need to be done. From day one it is straight in. They will be undertaking a range of different engineering jobs, so that they become broad engineers."

"We allocate mentors from different line companies to all trainees. The idea is that this is a fast track into very senior management in a short period of time. The salary is down to an individual's potential, and can be anything."

British Steel recruits about 170 graduates a year, and is still taking on graduates for this year's training programme. It employs a mix of graduates with degrees in mechanical and electrical engineering, material sciences or metallurgy, chemistry, some chemical engineers, and a few physicists, as well as some finance, management and marketing graduates.

Ann Bailey, head of education and training affairs at the Engineering Employers Federation, says that it is now up to the industry to prove itself an attractive option to graduates if it is to recruit the skills it needs. "It has to show graduates that engineering is changing and that the skills that it needs are going to be critical."



Engineering firms need to prove that they are an attractive choice for graduates

JAMES BIDWELL, 33, is marketing director of CarLand, which is bidding to overhaul the Arthur Daley image of the second-hand car market with massive retail-park superstores. Mr Bidwell is hoping to bring some Disney magic to the market, drawing on his five years working for the American company.

"I went to Bristol University and did a French and German degree. I had met some people in advertising and thought they seemed to have a good time. I've always been interested in what triggers people, and advertising is all about that. So, in my final year at Bristol, I approached some London agencies and got a job at one of the best, Lowe Howard Spink."

I became an account handler, working with brands like Heineken. After about a year, I started thinking about using my French degree and organised a six-month secondment to the French arm of the agency, in Paris, working on accounts like Stella Artois. When I came back I decided to get

CV

JAMES BIDWELL,
MARKETING
DIRECTOR OF
CARLAND



involved with launches because it was something I had always been excited about. I worked on the launches of magazines such as *Bella*, *Take a Break* and *TV Quick*.

After three years in advertising, I heard that EuroDisney was being set up. I had been working on a magazine launch, and because of a copyright query, I had to ring Disney. I got put through to the head of

marketing and asked him about EuroDisney. He said the marketing boss was in the next room, so I asked if I could go and see him - I did and I got a job. I'm an opportunist, so if something comes up I just make a call and sort it out.

I spent a year on the launch team. It was extraordinary watching EuroDisney being built - I remember driving around Thunder Mountain in my car. After Paris, we set up a London office to market EuroDisney to the UK and I was promotions manager.

Then came an opportunity to switch to marketing Florida's DisneyWorld brand to the UK. That was an exciting time in my career, criss-crossing the Atlantic to work in the States. Next, Sega approached me to be head of marketing for their theme park in London's Trocadero Centre. After a year, I was head-hunted to work for CarLand. The firm was set up by John Tuke, who had retired as MD of Henlys, a large motor distributor, but who had had this idea of revolutionising the second-hand car market.

"The philosophy is to put second-hand cars under one roof in a retail park and give them all a 150 point check by the RAC - it takes the angst out of buying a second-hand car. Our sales staff are not on commission."

I helped develop our idea of Car Locator computers. The first thing you do is tap in the details of what you are looking for and it prints out a map of a car in the store that will suit your needs. It's dramatic, because the computers are raised up on a podium so you can see 300-odd cars stretched out in front of you.

In terms of my CV, it's an important step for me to now be a director. I'm a bigger fish in a smaller operation, but I think working for such massive organisations in the first seven years of my career has been attractive in terms of giving me a degree of credibility.

CarLand has got tremendous potential, there is the possibility of a Stock Exchange flotation and, by 2000, we could also have a billion pound turnover.

Interview by MARK OLIVER

I am a 34-year-old house husband with a part-time job in finance and a degree in German. I would like to embark upon a career in computer programming, something the Government has been encouraging with the recent announcement about training people to tackle the millennium bug. I enjoy using computers but have no formal computing qualifications. I have thought about an Open University qualification. Would this be beneficial? I live in a far-flung part of England, so commuting is not possible. Is it possible to work remotely? David Lee, Cumbria

There is much more to computing than programming, with two significant developments to be aware of. The first is the increasing ubiquity of computers. A lot of the interesting work in the next decades will come not from programming but from devising original ways of developing ubiquitous computing. The second development is the rise of networking, both inside organisations and globally, via the Internet. Computers are communications devices first, and calculators second. In terms of Open University offerings, this would mean starting with an

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'I live in a far-flung part of England'

introductory course like "You, your computer and the Net" (T171) before moving on to the more technical courses like "Computing: an object-oriented approach" (M206). Both courses are offered online. The OU enquiries line is 01908 653231. John Naughton, head of OUs 'Going Digital' project

Your first option is online training and more information is on the Microsoft training web site www.microsoft.com/uk/train/cert. The second is self-paced training - Microsoft Press provides learning material which is tailored to meet an individual's level of competency. There are a number of programming Microsoft Press products, including interactive CD-ROMs, which are available from bookshops, but first go to our web site at <http://mnpres/microsoft.com>

David Bradley, Microsoft Press Business Development Manager

Begin by highlighting any IT-related work, training or interests on your CV. Register it with local and national IT recruiting and sub-contracting agencies (check the trade papers).

Check your local technical college for any part-time or evening courses. Local Training and Enterprise Councils may also be of some help. And learn as much as possible about the Year 2000 problem - ring the Action 2000 helpline to order an information pack or visit the Action 2000 web site for up-to-date information on the problem: www.bug2000.com.uk

Tony Stock, Operations Director at Action 2000

Qualifications are less important

than experience, and programming is an easy discipline to learn. There are probably three choices that are currently sensible: Java (Web site design), Visual Basic (small applications) and C (everything else). Learning C is a good discipline and it will prepare you for everything else; you'll find it relatively easy. Buy a good C compiler for your PC - "Turbo C", for instance. Then get a good book on programming in C - there are several thousand - and work through the exercises.

Once you've learnt C and had some practice, try using the Internet newsgroups to contact people looking for programmers - particularly charity or community sites looking for free assistance. It will build up your portfolio of experience. Neil Barrett, author of *The State of the Cybernation* (£9.99, Kogan Page)

Compiled by CARMEN FIELDING

If you have a work problem and want expert advice, write to Carmen Fielding, Fast Track, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171 293 2122; e-mail cfielding@independent.co.uk

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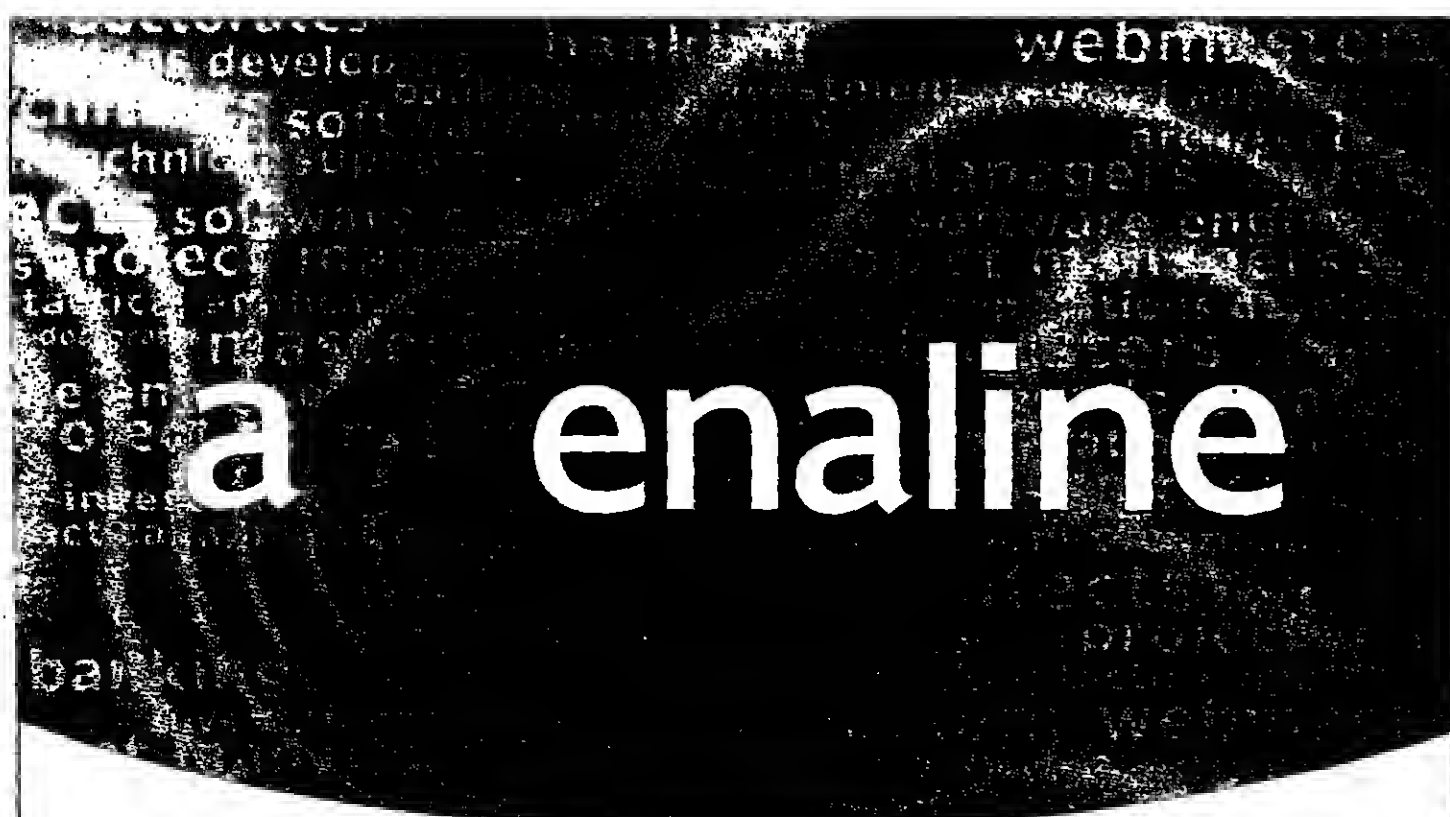
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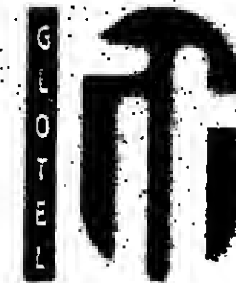
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Thursday
Education, Graduate

Sunday
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All replies will be handled in strict confidence. Applications from internal candidates will be welcomed.

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LITTLEWOODS

index

index extra



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22/LISTINGS

STREATHAM ABC (0122-309645) BR: Streatham Hill The Full Monty 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Grass Harp 1.40pm, 6.20pm Saver 4pm, 8.40pm Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Streatham Hill/Clapham Common City Of Angels 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 8.30pm Deep Impact 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Soul Food 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm The Wedding Singer 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

STRATFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (055 3366) BR: Stratford East City Of Angels 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 8.15pm, 8.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm Mrs Brown 4.30pm, 9pm Soul Food 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9pm The Wings Of The Dove 2.15pm, 5.45pm

SUTTON UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sutton /Morden City Of Angels 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Deep Impact 3.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm The Grass Harp 6.45pm, 9.15pm The Wedding Singer 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Wild Things 9.15pm

TURNPIKE LANE CORONET (0181-888 2519) BR: Turnpike Lane The Apostle 4pm, 8.10pm Soul Food 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm The Wedding Singer 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm

UXBRIDGE ODEON (01895-813139) BR: Uxbridge City Of Angels 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0122-920420) BR: Walthamstow Central The Full Monty 3.30pm, 4pm, 8.30pm, 8.45pm The Replacement Killers 8.55pm Soul Food 2pm, 5.30pm The Wedding Singer 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm

WALTON ON THAMES THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252325) BR: Walton on Thames City Of Angels 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.25pm The Wedding Singer 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm

WELL HALL CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Epsom Soul Food 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm The Wedding Singer 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

WILLESDEN BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) BR: Willesden Green Jackie Brown 3.30pm, 9.15pm

WOOD GREEN NEW CURZON WOOD GREEN (0181-347 6664) BR: Turnpike Lane Achanak 8pm Duplicate 5pm Isht 10.45pm Jack Pyle Kissie Hot 12pm

WOODFORD ABC (0181-888 3463) BR: South Woodford City Of Angels 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm The Full Monty 1.40pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm

WOOLWICH CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal City Of Angels 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm The Full Monty 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CINEMA
REPERTORY

LONDON CINE LUMIERE AT THE INSTITUT FRANCAIS Ouestrbury Place SW7 (0171-638 2144) Jean de Florette (PG) 7.30pm

EVERYMAN Hollywood Vale NW3 (0171-435 1525) Eyes Without A Face (18) 1.25pm, 5.10pm, 8.15pm Diaboliques 3.05pm, 6.50pm Still Upper Lips (18) 9pm

ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647) Spinal Tap 2 (PG) 5.30pm, 8.30pm Chattering Express (12) 5pm, 7pm Pallen Angels (18) 9pm

THE LUX Horden Square N1 (0171-684 0201) Obsessive Becoming (NC) 6.30pm + Short International Student Animation Showcase (NC) 8.30pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274) Point Blank (18) 2.30pm, 6.45pm Ringing Bell (18) 6.10pm The Ice Storm (With Palmetto Subtitles): Subtitled Screening (16) 6.15pm Sansho The Bailiff (PG) 7.30pm The Avengers + Adam Adamant: Television (NC) 8.30pm

PEPSI MAX The Toccadero, Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153) Everest (11) 1.15pm, 1.20pm, 3.25pm, 5.30pm, 7.35pm, 9.40pm Across The Sea Of Time - A New York Adventure (8-10) (12) 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm, 10.40pm

PHOENIX High Road N2 (0181-883 2233) The Apostle (12) 12.40pm, 6pm Afterglow (15) 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Sliding Doors (15) 3.40pm, 8.55pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) Boogie Nights (18) 8.40pm L'Appartement (15) 3.30pm The Ice Storm (15) 6pm Wilde (15) 1pm

RIO Kingsland High Street E7 (0171-254 8677) Soul Food (15) 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0181-741 2255) Cat People (1942 Version) (NC) 7pm + Out Of The Past 8.40pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Bedford, MK43 (0161-568 1176) Afterglow (15) 4.30pm, 9pm Oscar And Lucinda (15) 1.30pm, 8.30pm

BRIGHTON DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-626261) My Son The Fanatic (18) 2pm, 6.45pm Western (15) 4pm, 8.45pm

BRISTOL WATERHEAD (0117-925 3845) Afterglow (15) 8pm, 8.25pm The Taste Of Cherry (PG) 6.05pm, 8.15pm

CAMBRIDGE ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Washington Square (PG) 2.30pm, 9.30pm Western (15) 7pm Wild Man Blues (12) 9pm

CARDIFF CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-309666) Alice (SVANKMA-JER) (12) 2.30pm, 7.30pm The Scarlet Ties (12) 8.45pm Verigo (PG) 6.15pm

IPSWICH IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) Afterglow (15) 2.30pm, 8.30pm Slaves To The Underground (NC) 6pm Some Prefer Cake (NC) 8.15pm Washington Square (PG) 6.15pm

NORWICH CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) The Big Lebowski (18) 2.30pm, 8.15pm TwentyFourSeven (18) 5.45pm

PLYMOUTH PLYMOUTH ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) Prisoner Of The Mountains (15) 8pm

CINEMA
COUNTRYWIDE

BATH ABC CINEMA (01225-461730) City Of Angels (12)

LITTLE THEATRE (01225-466622) The Real Blonde (15), The General (15)

ROBINS CINEMA (01225-461506) Sliding Doors (15), The Full Monty (15), The Wedding Singer (12)

BRISTOL ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191) Some Like It Hot (U), Live Flesh (18), Great Expectations (15)

BRISTOL CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (01275-831099) Anastasia (U), Blues Brothers 2000 (PG), Mouseshunt (PG), Sliding Doors (15), The Replacement Killers (18), Titanic (12), Mrs Brown (PG), Wishmaster (18), Dark City (15), The Wings Of The Dove (15), The Wedding Singer (12), Moria (15), City Of Angels (12), Sham Ghanam (NC), Still Upper Lips (15), The Big Lebowski (18), Star Kid (PG), The Full Monty (15), Saver (15), Babe (U), Deep Impact (12), Paws (PG), Screen 2 (18), The Apostle (12), Sarbanas Damsi Guru Gahind Singh (PG), A Thousand Acres (15)

ORPHEUS HENLEAZE (0117-932 5444) Mrs Brown (PG), Star Kid (PG), Washington Square (PG), The Full Monty (15), The Wings Of The Dove (15), Sliding Doors (15)

ODEON (0117-929 0362) City Of Angels (12), Flubber (U), As Good As It Gets (15), The Wedding Singer (12), The Land Before Time (U), George Of The Jungle (U)

ABC WHITE LADIES ROAD (0117-973 3640) The Full Monty (15), City Of Angels (12), Sliding Doors (15)

CARDIFF CAPITOL ODEON (01222-270588) Mouseshunt (PG), Star Kid (PG), Gattaca (15), The Wedding Singer (12), Titanic (12), The Wings Of The Dove (15), Screen 2 (18), Wishmaster (18), Deep Impact (12), Anastasia (U), Mimic (15), Wild Things (18), Sliding Doors (15)

ABC CINEMA (0541-555178) Good Burger (PG), The Grass Harp (PG), Seven (18), Blues Brothers 2000 (PG), Sliding Doors (15), The Full Monty (15)

MONICO (01222-693426) Titanic (12), The Wedding Singer (12), Good Burger (PG)

CARDIFF MONROE (01222-461690) Dushman (15), Deconstructing Harry (18)

ODEON (01222-867166) The Wedding Singer (12), City Of Angels (12)

CARDIFF UCI 12 (0990-888990) Wishmaster (18), The Replacement Killers (18), Sliding Doors (15), Fairytale: A True Story (U), Deep Impact (12), The Peacekeeper (15), City Of Angels (12), Mouseshunt (PG), Dark City (15), Titanic (12), Goodwill Baharwall (PG), The Wedding Singer (12), Star Kid (PG), The Big Swap (18), Jackie Brown (15), Screen 2 (18), Still Upper Lips (15), Anastasia (U), Oscar And Lucinda (15), Paws (PG), Red Career (15), A Thousand Acres (15), Flubber (U)

IPSWICH ODEON (01473-287717) Red Corner (15), The Wedding Singer (12), Sliding Doors (15), Anastasia (U), George Of The Jungle (U), Deep Impact (12), Spice World - The Movie (PG), Flubber (U), City Of Angels (12), Mouseshunt (PG), Amistad (15)

VIRGIN CINEMA (0870-9070748) Star Kid (PG), Dark City (15), Still Upper Lips (15), Wishmaster (18), The Replacement Killers (18), The Wedding Singer (12), Screen 2 (18), Deep Impact (12), Mouseshunt (PG), City Of Angels (12), Good Burger (PG), Anastasia (U), Red Corner (15), Fairytale: A True Story (U), Titanic (12), Sliding Doors (15)

Wild Things (18), The Peacekeeper (15), Anastasia (U), Sliding Doors (15), Jumanji (PG), Red Corner (15), Still Upper Lips (15), Mouseshunt (PG), Star Kid (PG), Jack Pyle Kissie Hot (PG), UCI's Gold (15), Wishmaster (18)

PORTSMOUTH ABC CINEMA (01705-823838) Flubber (U), Fairytale: A True Story (U), The Wedding Singer (12), Anastasia (U), George Of The Jungle (U), Welcome To Sarajevo (15), Mrs Brown (PG), Wishmaster (18), The Wings Of The Dove (15)

ODEON (01705-664623) Flubber (U), The Wings Of The Dove (15), The Wedding Singer (12), City Of Angels (12), Anastasia (U), Welcome To Sarajevo (15), George Of The Jungle (U), Wishmaster (18), Paws (PG), Fairytale: A True Story (U)

UCI 6 (0990-888990) Midnight In The Garden Of Good And Evil (15), Sliding Doors (15), The Peacekeeper (15), The Wedding Singer (12), Mouseshunt (PG), Titanic (12), Blues Brothers 2000 (PG), Deep Impact (12), Anastasia (U), Red Corner (15), Screen 2 (18), City Of Angels (12), Wild Things (18), Wishmaster (18), Star Kid (PG)

THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. ● - Seats at some prices. ○ - Returns only. Matinees - (1): Sun, (3): Tue, (4): Wed, (5): Thu, (6): Fri, (7): Sat

○ **ART** Richard Griffiths, Tony Haygarth, Malcolm Storry star in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship, Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) ● Leic Sq, Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat & Sun 5pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

● **AS YOU LIKE IT** Stalwart speedster comedy. The Globe New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) ● London Bridge in rep, today 2pm, ends 6 Sep, £5-£20, cons available.

● **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-856 1888) ● Tottenham Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £17.50-£32.50, 150 mins.

● **BLOOD BROTHERS** Willy Russell's long-running musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ● Leic Sq/Tottenham Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue 3pm, Sat 4pm, £10.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

● **BUDDY** Musical biopic about the life of Buddy Holly. Shoreditch Aldwych, WC2 (0171-330 8800) ● Covent Garden/Charing X, Tue-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 3pm, 8.30pm, mats Sun 4pm, £6.75-£30, 160 mins.

● **CATS** Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Park Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4078) ● Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

● **CHICAGO** Ruthie Henshall stars in this hit Broadway musical. Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) ● Charing X, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee), 130 mins.

● **CLOSER** Superb study of contemporary sexual relationships from Dealer's Choice author Patrick Marber. Lyric, Shalesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ● Picc Cinc, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £27-£50, 140 mins.

● **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)** Reduced Shakespeare Company last forward through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) ● Picc Cinc, Wed-Sat 8pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sat 5pm, Sun 4pm, £9.50-£20, 120 mins.

● **ELTON JOHN'S GLASS-ES** David Jann's comedy about one man's obsession with Watford Football Club and their failure to win the Cup Final in 1982. Queen's Shalesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5590/cc 344 4444) ● Picc Cinc, Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 4pm, £10.50-£27.50.

● **GAS STATION ANGEL** Story of two lovers who are led to meet, from the creator of House Of America, Not suitable for children. Royal Court West End, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ● Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Sat 4pm, ends 27 Jun, £5-£10, benches 10p, Mon & matinees - all seats £5, 130 mins.

● **THE GIFT** Angela de Castro's exploration of love and loss through clomping. Barbican, The Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891) ● Barbican Mouseshunt, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue 3pm, Wed & Sat 2.30pm, ends 4 Jul, £12-£15, 120 mins.

● **GREASE** Melissa Dunlop stars in the stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) ● Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£30, 150 mins.

● **HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE** Paula Vogel's drama about the incestuous relationship between a teenager and her uncle. Deodar Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) ● Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Tue & Sat 4pm, £12-£16, cons available.

● **THE ICEMAN COMETH** Kevin Spacey stars in Eugene O'Neill's classic testimony to the power of dreams. Old Vic The Old Vic, SE1 (0171-926 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/VE: Waterloo, Mon-Sat 7pm, mats Sat 1.30pm, ends 1 Aug, £5-£30, 180 mins.

● **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Christopher Cazenove and Kate O'Mara in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Albany St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730/cc 867 1111) ● Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sat 4pm, £27.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

● **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed production of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) ● Leic Sq, Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 5pm, £10.50-£25, 110 mins.

● **KAT AND THE KINGS** Musical set in 1950s Cape Town. Watermill Strand, WC2 (0171-336 9987) BR/VE: Charing X, Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri-Sat 5.30pm & 8.30pm, £5.25-£27.50, 130 mins.

● **A LETTER OF RESIGNATION** Hugh Whitmore's play about the Profumo affair and political morality. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 836 0479) ● Charing X/Embankment, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 4pm, £12.50-£25, 135 mins.

● **LIFEGAME** Innovative drama based on audience participation. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) ● Hammersmith, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 27 Jun, £5-£16, Tue - all seats £5.

● **MAJOR BARBARA** Jenna Redgrave and Peter Bowles star. Piccadilly Denham Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) ● Picc Cinc, in rep, today 2.30pm & 7.45pm, continuing, £8.50-£27.50.

● **THE MERCHANT OF VENICE** Shakespeare's cross-cultural comedy. The Globe New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) ● London Bridge, in rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 19 Sep, £5-£20, cons available.

● **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 344 4444) ● Picc Cinc, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

● **POPPOURRI** Laurence Brownel directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema violence. Apollo Shalesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) ● Picc Cinc, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 4pm, booking to Aug 1, £5.50-£23.50, 150 mins.

● **THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND & BLACK COMEDY** Double bill of drama from Tom Stoppard and Peter Schaffer, directed by Gregory Doran. Comedy Factory Strand, SW1 (0171-369 1731) ● Picc Cinc/Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £7.50-£27.50, 165 mins.

● **RENT** Musical inspired by La Boheme and set in modern day New York. Shalesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5359) ● Holborn/Tottenham Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 160 mins.

● **ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE** OLYMPIA: The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie Fiona Shaw stars in the Scottish schoolmistress in this new adaptation of the classic novel by Muriel Spark. In rep, tonight 7pm, ends 3 Oct. ● COTTESLOE: The Day I Stood Still Kevin Boyd's new play is based on a friendship forged in the 1960s and directed by Ian Rickson. In rep, today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 27 Jun, 170 mins. ● OLIVER & LYTTLETON: 28-27 Cottesloe: £12-£19. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000) ● Waterloo.

● **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER** Hit 1970s musical featuring classic songs by the Bee Gees. London Palladium Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) ● Oxford Cinc, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 135 mins.

● **SHOW BOAT** Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein's musical set on the Mississippi. Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 3400) ● Leic Sq/Tottenham Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm, £10-£33, 180 mins.

● **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Classic tale of love and confusion set in the fairy kingdom. Open Air Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431/cc 486 1933) ● Baker Street, in rep, today 2.30pm & 8pm, ends 5 Sep, £8-£20.

● **LES MISERABLES** Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Shalesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0809) ● Picc Cinc, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm, £7-£32.50, 195 mins.

● **MISS SAIGON** Musical which retells the Madam Butterfly tragedy in Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) ● Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £5.75-£32.50, 165 mins.

● **THE MOUSETRAP** Classic Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) ● Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Tue 2.45pm, Sat 5pm, £9-£23, 135 mins.

● **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** Declan Donnell directs Cheek by Jowl in a new production of Shakespeare's classic. Playhouse Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401/cc 316 4747) ● Embankment, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm, ends 25 Jul, £10-£22.

● **THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD** David Mamet's new play is directed by Patrick Marber. Royal Court (at Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ● Leic Sq/Charing X, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat 3.30pm, £5-£19.50, benches 10p, Mon - all seats £5.

● **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 344 4444) ● Picc Cinc, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

● **POPPOURRI** Laurence Brownel directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema violence. Apollo Shalesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) ● Picc Cinc, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 4pm, booking to Aug 1, £5.50-£23.50, 150 mins.

● **THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND & BLACK COMEDY** Double bill of drama from Tom Stoppard and Peter Schaffer, directed by Gregory Doran. Comedy Factory Strand, SW1 (0171-369 1731) ● Picc Cinc/Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £7.50-£27.50, 165 mins.

● **RENT** Musical inspired by La Boheme and set in modern day New York. Shalesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5359) ● Holborn/Tottenham Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 160 mins.

● **ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE** OLYMPIA: The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie Fiona Shaw stars in the Scottish schoolmistress in this new adaptation of the classic novel by Muriel Spark. In rep, tonight 7pm, ends 3 Oct. ● COTTESLOE: The Day I Stood Still Kevin Boyd's new play is based on a friendship forged in the 1960s and directed by Ian Rickson. In rep, today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 27 Jun, 170 mins. ● OLIVER & LYTTLETON: 28-27 Cottesloe: £12-£19. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000) ● Waterloo.

● **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER** Hit 1970s musical featuring classic songs by the Bee Gees. London Palladium Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) ● Oxford Cinc, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 135 mins.

● **SHOW BOAT** Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein's musical set on the Mississippi. Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 3400) ● Leic Sq/Tottenham Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm, £10-£33, 180 mins.

● **SNOKEY JOE'S CAFE - THE SONGS OF LEIBER AND STOLLER** The rock and roll hitmakers celebrated in a musical revue that includes Jailhouse Rock, Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) ● Leic Sq/Picc Cinc, Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.45pm & 8.30pm, Sat 3pm & 8pm, £15-£32.50, Fri mats £10-£25, 135 mins.

● **STARLIGHT EXPRESS** Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria Strand, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/VE: Victoria, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£30, 150 mins.

● **SWEET CHARITY** Bonnie Langford stars in this classic musical, featuring the numbers Hey Hey Spender and the Rhythm Of Life. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/VE: Victoria, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £15-£30.

● **THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE** Jane Asher stars in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy. Gaiety Shalesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) ● Picc Cinc, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Thu & Sat 3pm, £10.50-£27.50, 140 mins.

● **THE UNEXPECTED MAN** Yasmina Reza's follow-up to Art is a drama about a novelist and a life-long admirer. Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5073/cc 344 4444) ● Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 4pm, Sat 5pm, £10-£22, 100 mins.

THURSDAY RADIO

RADIO 1

(97.8-98.8MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball.
9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jo
Whaley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00
Dave Pearce. 6.30 Glastonbury
Live - Steve Lamacq and John
Peel. 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs.
1.00 Chris Warren. 4.00 - 6.30
Chris Moyles.

RADIO 2

(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.30 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake
Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce.
12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed
Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker.
7.00 David Allen. 8.00 Paul Jones.
9.00 The Impro Musical. 9.30 The
Russ Abbot Show. 10.00 Paul
Gambacorta's Inside Track. 10.30
Richard Ainsworth. 12.05 Jeff Owen.
3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3

(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
9.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week: C P
E Bach.

1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 The Piano.
4.45 Music Machine.
5.00 In Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. Ann
Murray (mazzio), City of London
Sinfonia/Richard Hickox. Ives:
Symphony No 3 (The Camp
Meeting). Copland: Eight Poems of
Emily Dickinson. Ives: Two
Contemplations. Copland: Hear Ye
Hear Ye!

9.40 Postscript. 4: "My Old Man".
Joe's father is an American jockey
working the European circuit. He
has made it to Paris, owns a good
horse and rides in his own colours.
Life is sweet. Reader Stuart
Milligan.

10.00 Music Restored. Live from
St John's, Smith Square, London, a
second Radio 3 invitation concert
from the Luthfahsa Festival of
Baroque Music, introduced by Chris
de Souza. Andrew Manze and
Carolina Baking play violin duos by
Jedair, Guignon and Telemann.

PICK OF THE DAY

MARKING 50 years since the
first immigrant vessel from the
West Indies reached our shores,
Something to Declare (2.15pm
R4) is a one-off collaboration
between the BBC and the Royal
Court Theatre, and sees the next
generation touchingly re-enact-
ing the movements of their fore-
bears. Rabbit Mark Winer finds
the late Hugo Cray, a much-
loved survivor of Auschwitz, a
Hard Act to Follow (9am and

9.30pm R4) as the head of the
oldest Reform synagogue in
Britain, while Jo Morris tackles
issues of adoption in Match-
makers (3.30pm R4) as she
talks to a couple who are turning
their home into an orphanage.
Later on, Night Waves (10.45pm
R4) watches the inimitable Fiona
Shaw (right) at the National as
Muriel Spark's celebrity spinster
Miss Jean Brodie.

FIONA STURGES



people faced with the challenge of
stepping into someone else's
shoes, Fiona Shaw talks to Mark
Winer, the American rabbi
appointed to succeed the late and
much-loved Hugo Cray. See Pick
of the Day.

10.00 The World Tonight.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Scarlet
and Black. By Stendhal, read by
Greg Wise, abridged in ten parts
by Micheline Wandor. Two
arch-rivals vie for Julien as their
tutor until an unexpected
revelation forces him to leave for a
new life (4/10).

11.00 Mother Nature's Nursery. A
compilation of the best of "On
Baby Street", a comedy about
three women living on the same
street who all have children.
Written by Jenny Eccles, who plays
Mother Nature, and Julie Balloo.

11.30 Eddie's Other Lives.
12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Intimacy.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz)

9.45 - 10.00 Service. 12.00 -
12.04 News; Shipping. 5.54 -
5.57 Shipping. 11.30 Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE

(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 The Breakfast Programme.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Wimbledon and World Cup

7.55 World Cup 98. Ian Payne
introduces the final action in Group
F. Commentary comes from Ron
Jones, Ian Brown and Pat Nevin in
Montpellier whilst Jimmy Armfield is
in Nantes for USA v Yugoslavia.

10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick
Robinson. Including the day's sports
round-up at 10.30.

1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry
Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00
Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Cullum. 6.30
Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics
at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert.
11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto.

3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO
(125, 197-280kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)

7.00 Chris Evans. 10.00 Russ
Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00
Robin Banks/FM only Ray Cokes
from 6.45pm. 7.30 Ray Cokes.

10.00 Mark Forrest. 2.00 Peter
Pouton. 5.00 Jeremy Clark.

WORLD SERVICE
(198kHz LW)

1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Westway.
1.45 Britain Today. 2.00
Newsdesk. 2.30 Composer of the
Week. 3.00 Newsdesk. 3.30 Focus
on Faith. 4.00 World News. 4.05
World Business Report. 4.35
Sports Roundup. 4.30 The World
Today (0430-0700)/Night (SW
5875kHz only). 4.45 Off the Shelf:
Something to Hide. 5.30 Outlook
(SW 7235kHz only). 5.55 - 6.30
Science View (SW 7235kHz only).

TALK RADIO
6.30 New Talk Breakfast
Show. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00
Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Tommy Boyd.
3.00 Holland V Mexico Live
Commentary. 5.00 Peter Deeley.
7.00 Anna Raeburn. 9.00 James
White. 1.00 Ian Collins. 5.00 -
6.30 The Early Show with Bill
Overton.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

THE AGENCY Masters tournament
in London has been producing
some fine games, though nothing
quite to match this McMonster for
sheer excitement. The fun began
when Black sacrificed a pawn to
open Q-side lines with 8...b5. White
opened a few more lines of his own
with 10.e4 when Black ignored the
apparent threat of 11.e5 (which
would have been met by cxd4).
The first real surprise came
with 18...Ne3! After 19.Bxe3 Bxe3
White cannot play either Rxd8
(because of mate on c1) or Qxe3
(which leaves the rook on d1 to be
taken). White got his own back for
this piece of impertinence by play-
ing 21.Nxf7? when both 21...Rxf7
22.Bxe6 and 21...Kxf7 22.Rd7+ are
very dangerous for Black.

21...Rxf7 seemed to solve his
problems, but after 22.Nd6 his rook
was hanging and a quick Qxe6+
was in the air. The solution was
22...Re4! (to meet Nxe4 with
Bxe4+) but 23.Rhe1 led to White's
regaining his piece. When the dust
settled after 27.Nc4, White looked

better, but he seemed not to notice
Black's e-pawn sprinting through
until too late. At the end, 41.Kb3
Qxb2+ 42.Ka4 Ra1+ forces mate.

White: Colin McNab
Black: Neil McDonald

Agency Masters, London 1998
1 c4 c5 22 Nd6 Re4
2 Nf3 d5 23 Rhe1 R2
3 e3 Nf6 24 Nxb7 R4d4
4 Nc3 e6 25 Naxd1+
5 Qe2 Nbd7 26 Rxd1 Bd4
6 d4 Bd6 27 Nd4 Qe5
7 Bd2 0-0 28 a4 Kg7
8 0-0-0 b5 29 a5 e5
9 cxb5 c5 30 b6 axb6
10 e4 Bb7 31 axb6 R8
11 exd5 Nxd5 32 Qa4 R7
12 Nd6 Be7 33 Rd3 e4
13 dxc5 Nxc5 34 Rb3 e3
14 Nxc5 Bxc5 35 b7 e2
15 Ng5 g6 36 b8Q e1Q+
16 Kb1 Bxf2 37 Ka2 Rf1
17 h4 Re8 38 Rb7+ Kh6
18 Qb3 Ne3 39 Qa8 Qxc4+
19 Bxe3 Bxe3 40 Qxc4 Qa1+
20 Bc1 Qb6 41 White resigned
21 Nxf7 Rxf7

POKER

DAVID SPANIER

BINION'S HORSESHOE in Las
Vegas, the very heart and soul of
poker, has been sold. The question
is: will the World Series of Poker
continue? This spring festival of
poker is far and away the high
point of the year for all serious
poker players. Can it possibly not
be held on its 30th anniversary
next year?

The answer is both Yes and No.
Fantastic as it is as a celebration
of poker as well as a tournament
venue, the World Series is not uni-
versally popular within the Binion
family. Jack himself has always
supported it and personally opens
the World Championship with his
time-honoured command: "Shuffle
up and deal!" This year a record
field of 350 players filled the arena,
which is a tented space set up next
to the hotel entrance.

But the shifting of slot machines
out of the area designated for
poker, and the general disruption to
the regular operation of the casino,
is resented by some members of
the family. There is also a high
cost in comps and free-loading for
the players. All in all, the World
Series probably costs the casino a
couple of millions or so. The mar-
keting value of the event, however,
is priceless. It serves to broadcast
Binion's name far and wide - but
that is a theoretical gain, while
casino operators with their eye on
the bottom line may not always
appreciate.

This has been one of the prob-

lems that have caused bad blood
within the family. It was no secret
in Vegas, after old man Benny
Binion was called to the great dealer
in the sky, that Jack felt out with
his sister Becky. Or that his
brother Ted was refused a gaming
licence and had a very public dis-
pute with the authorities over his
drugs record and reported Mafia
connections.

Now the knot has been cut.
Becky, Jack's sister, has bought
out the other family members'
stakes in the Horseshoe, so ending
her lawsuit with Jack. The deal
was brokered by Jack himself, who
retains a 1 per cent share in the
business for technical reasons. He
will now concentrate full time on his
highly successful casino interests
in Mississippi and Louisiana.
Becky Behnen (her married name)
becomes the property's sole owner.

So where does that leave the
World Series? If Becky decides to
continue to run it at the Horseshoe,
well and good. That is where it
belongs. But if she decides against
it (the Hall of Fame event in August
has already been cancelled), some-
one else will certainly take it over.
The Rio, behind the Mirage, has
shown the way, by staging a major
event of its own last January. Alter-
natively, the name World Series of
Poker, itself a valuable asset, could
be licensed to another operator.
One way or another, under one
name or another, the World Cham-
pionship will surely go on.

PUZZLE

SOME TOPICAL "26 L of the A"
(Letters of the Alphabet) teasers:
can you find the missing words in
these:

2 G S by R A E
4 M A for D in T
6 M M from T's D to C D

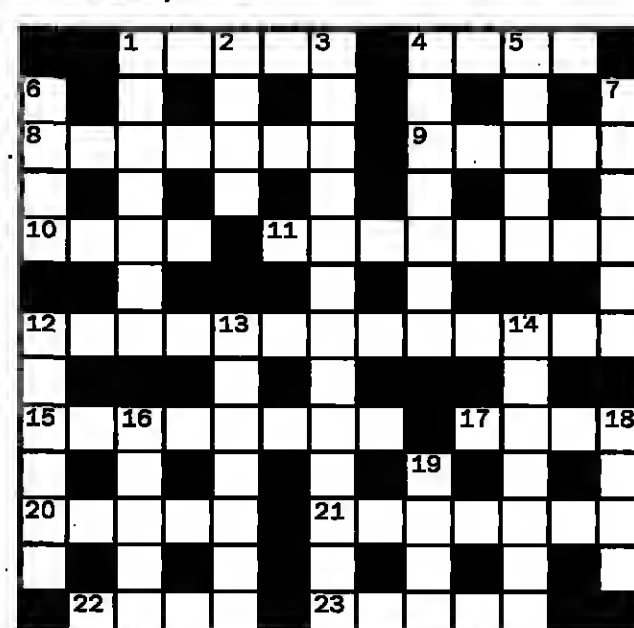
Yesterday's answer:

"A SCOTTISH WRITER" and "A
NOVEL" is an anagram of "SIR
WALTER SCOTT" and "IVAN-
HOE".

(Answers to today's puzzles in
this space tomorrow.)

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3646 Thursday 25 June



ACROSS

- Austrian composer (5)
- Unwell (4)
- Filth (7)
- Roam around in a predatory way (5)
- Precipitation (4)
- A year (3,5)
- Trickery (7-6)
- Example (8)
- Sword (4)
- Bring to bear (5)
- Burdensome (7)
- Heavy metal (4)
- Hungarian composer (5)

DOWN

- Accommodation (7)
- Part of egg (4)
- Educational establishment (7,6)
- Singing voice (7)
- Circus performer (5)
- Roman emperor (4)
- Awkward (6)
- Woodworker (6)
- Lofy (7)
- Take advantage of (7)
- Scandinavian (5)
- Simple (4)
- Optical glass (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Knickers, 5 Here (Nicosia), 9 Awful, 11 Trans-
cript, 14 Unintentional, 16 Unbearable, 20 Supremo, 21 Brine, 22 Sole,
23 Sketches. DOWN: 1 Khartoum, 2 Infra dig, 3 Kilns, 4 Reference book,
6 Eddy, 7 Elms, 8 Delphi, 12 Snobbish, 13 Clueless, 15 Tanker, 17 Re-
but, 18 Isis, 19 Opal.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00 Farewell to Planet of the Apes (1974)
(478301). 7.35 The Ballad of Cable
Hogue (1970) (2675496). 9.35 Invisible
Man (1997) (3835564). 11.05 Mr Hollands
Opus (1995) (2349510). 1.30 Farewell to
Planet of the Apes (1974) (2019). 3.00
Kid Galahad (1962) (3018). 5.00 Invisible
Man (1997) (4747344). 6.35 Mr Hollands
Opus (1995) (2349510). 8.00 The Cure
(1997) (7180232). 10.45 Kansas City
(1995) (7172564). 12.40 From Dusk 'til
Dawn (1996) (42423). 2.25 Confessions
of a Lapdancer (1997) (466220). 4.00 -
6.00 Night Force (1987) (74336).

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00 Daddy Long Legs (1955) (6933729).
8.05 Shanghai Express (1932)
(5220039). 10.00 It Came from Outer
Space I (1966) (82274). 12.00 Evita (1996)
(6958552). 2.45 The Palm Beach Story
(1942) (941019). 5.55 Daddy Long Legs
(1955) (6933729). 8.00 It Came from
Outer Space I (1966) (82274). 10.00 US
Top Ten (1980). 8.00 Preview - Evita
(1996). 8.05 Evita (1996) See Pick of
the Day (2481303). 10.20 Under Siege 2:
Dark Territory (1995) (224039). 12.00
Undercover (1995) (83626). 1.40 The
Glass Cage (1996) (227591). 3.00
Exposed (1993) (435404). 5.00 - 6.55
Dogs: One for All and All for One
(1999) (805752).

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00 Steel Magnolias (1989) (7947233).
6.00 She Wore a Yellow Ribbon (1949)
(311941). 8.00 Working Girl (1988)
(330458). 10.00 Steel Magnolias (1989)
(7947233). 12.00 The Seventh Sign (1988)
(875077). 1.40 Dirty Harry, Crazy Larry
(1974) (444775). 3.55 Morning Glory
(1933) (776251). 4.30 Bachelor Mother*
(1939) (826873). 5.50 Close.

BRavo

8.00 The A-Team (321724). 9.00 Real
Stories of the Highway Patrol (824854).
9.30 Cops (453212). 10.00 Italian
Stripping Housewives (708098). 10.30
World Cup Undercover (712408). 11.00
Films: King Rat (222530). 1.00 Beverly
Hills Coplane (494268). 1.30 Italian
Stripping Housewives (708098). 2.00
Real Stories of the Highway Patrol
(824854). 2.30 Cops (453212). 3.00
Films: Rambo II (1988) (407724). 5.00 -
6.00 The A-Team (321724).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

8.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures II
(737347). 4.30 Zoo Story (732361).
5.00 First Fridays (207918). 5.30

PICK OF THE DAY

MADONNA's film CV has not
been without glitches - as the
lamentable *Body of Evidence*
reminds us. All the same, you can
understand why she was report-
edly bitterly disappointed not to
win even an Oscar nomination
for her performance in *Evita*
(8.05pm Sky Movies Screen 2,
right) as the much-loved wife of
Argentina's President Peron
(Jonathan Pryce). In Alan Park-
er's sumptuous reading of the
musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber
and Tim Rice, the actress really
brings the role to life, and invests

such songs as "Don't Cry for Me,
Argentina" and "Another Suitcase
in Another Hall" with
genuine passion. Since she has
always proved irresistibly
fascinating as the heartbreaking
Yorkshire TV documentary
about a pair of them a few years
ago demonstrated. Joined at
Birth (8pm Discovery) puts
the microscope on twins who
are born fused together, and
interviews doctors who have the
desperately difficult task of
trying to separate them.



JAMES RAMPTON

History's Turning Points (736694). 6.00
Animal Doctor (736694). 6.30 The Wild
Yale of Tibet (248564). 7.20 Disaster
(736694). 8.00 Joined at Birth See Pick
of the Day (32274). 9.00 Flightline
(814800). 9.30 Ultra Science (743458).
10.00 Forensic Detectives (243689).
11.00 The Professionals: Transplant
(238141). 12.00 First Flights (336133).
1.30 Disaster (736694). 4.00 The
World's Most Dangerous Animals
(354875). 2.00 Close.

SKY 1

7.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters
from Beverly Hills (82283). 7.30 Games
World (833729). 7.45 The Simpsons
(85651). 8.15 The Oprah Winfrey Show
(191561). 9.00 Hotel (83531). 9.30
Another World (4724). 11.00 Days of Our
Lives (67038). 12.30 Married with
Children (44903). 1.30 M*A*S*H
(770729). 2.55 The Special K Collection
(477125). 1.55 The Special K Collection
(477125). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael
(884869). 2.55 The Special K Collection
(477125). 3.00 Jerry Jones (1122).
4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (81449).
5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (7157). 6.00
The Nanny (2748). 6.30 Married with
Children (8800). 7.00 The Simpsons
(8816). 7.30 The Simpsons (8212). 8.00
America's Dumbest Criminals (7654).
8.30 Sanford (8695). 9.00 Friends
(86903). 9.30 Friends (86903). 10.00
Friends (86903). 10.30 Friends (84380).

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00 Sky Sports Centre (321367). 7.15
World Wrestling Federation Shotgun
Challenge (76309). 8.15 Sky Sports
Centre (250645). 8.30 Racing News
(1022). 9.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (28944).
9.30 Rebel Sports (9740). 10.00
Snooker (6157). 12.00 Aerobics - Oz
Style (28944). 12.30 European Tour Golf
Magazine (22903). 1.00 European Tour
Golf (794899). 3.00 WWF (2729). 6.00
Sports Centre (2380). 6.30 Football
Mundial (3032). 7.00 Football (73564).
8.00 Trans World Sport (8221). 9.00 FS
Racing (8335). 9.30 Fastrax (82767).
10.00 World Cup Phone-In (25767).
10.45 Sky Sports Centre (87044). 11.00
Formula Three Racing (4390). 11.30
Football Mundial (2832). 12.00 Sky
Sports Centre (250645). 12.15
Dive! Dive! Dive! (82520). 1.45
Dive! Dive! Dive! (82520). 1.55 World
(42775). 2.55 Football Mundial (75581).
2.45 World Cup Phone-In (25767). 3.30
Sky Sports Centre (820482). 3.45
Close.

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (785545). 7.30
Sky Sports Centre (876561). 7.45
Racing News (260767). 8.15 European
Tour Weekly (45578). 8.45 Sky Sports
Centre (734757). 9.00 Fish TV

Americana Outdoors

(755816). 9.30 Golf
Extra (321822). 12.30 Watersports
World (247212). 1.30 Rebel Sports
(475554). 2.00 The Winning Post
(236449). 4.30 Fastrax (82764). 5.00
Trans World Sport (82767). 6.00
Showjumping Grand Prix 96 (83394).
6.30 Inside the PGA Tour (82523). 7.00
Tiger Lites (82523). 9.00 Dickie
Davies' Sporting Heroes Johnnie Surtees
(827503). 9.00 Showjumping Grand Prix
96 (443552). 9.30 Rebel Sports
(475729). 10.00 Ford Golf USA -
Motorola Western Open (850450). 12.00
Dancing World Ten Dance (833065).
1.30 Sky Sports Centre (82520). 1.45
Showjumping Grand Prix 96 (238133).
1.45 Sky Sports Centre (8765442).
2.00 Close.

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Wrestling (260767). 1.00 Fish TV
Fly Fishing (840781). 1.30 Fish TV The
Ultimate Fishing Show (821891). 2.00
Greatest Moments in Sport (807244).
2.30 Dickie Davies' Sporting Heroes Tiger
Lites (82523). 3.00 World of
Super League with Eddie and Steve
(809836). 3.30 PGA Tour (802576).
6.00 Rebel Sports (805380). 6.30
Formula Three Racing (806082). 7.00
European Tour Golf (885019). 10.00 -
11.30 Football Scrapbook (764722).

EUROSPORT

0.00 Football: World Cup 98 (2767).
7.30 Football: World Cup 98 (81545).
11.00 Football: World Cup 98 (84268).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC

IN IRELAND As BBC1 London except:
6.30 - 7.00 Newsline 6.30 10.00 Give
My Head Peace 10.30 The Human
Body 11.20 The Man Who Jumped to
Earth 12.05 World Cup 98 - Match of
the Day 1.05 Film: Rubdown 2.35 -
6.00 Joins BBC News 24

SCOTLAND As BBC1 London except:

6.00 News 6.30 Reporting Scotland:
Weather 7.00 - 7.30 Feeling Good
6.30 - 9.00 The Beechgrove Garden
9.30 - 10.00 Top of the Pops
WALES As BBC1 London except: 6.30
7.00 Wales Today 11.30 World Cup
98 - Match of the Day 12.30 Film:
Rubdown 2.00 - 6.00 BBC News 24

ANGLIA As Carlton except:

12.20 Anglia
News and Weather (220747). 1.00
News and Weather (46390). 1.30 Home
and Away (1903). 2.00 The Jerry
Springer Show (443036). 2.30 The Jerry
Springer Show (443036). 3.00 Shortland Street
(331545). 6.25 Anglia News (436222).
6.55 News (436222). 7.30 Anglia
News and Weather (82245). 10.40 The
News and Weather (82245). 11.40 Making the
News (302380). 11.40 Midnight Caller

ITV

(71138). 12.45 The Jerry Springer
Show (443036). 1.25 Tr

